



K9MCE Officers:

- President: Gary Huff, K9AUB
- Vice-President: Ron Ochu, KO0Z
- Secretary: Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF
- Treasurer: Jim Pitchford, N9LQF
- Trustee: Skp Riba, WS9V
- **Board of Directors:**
- Mark Osborn, WA9SXX
- Issac Pizzo, KC9NJW
- Tim Coonrod, KC9HQA
- Hugh Watson, AB9UB
- Webmaster: Issac Pizzo, KC9NJW

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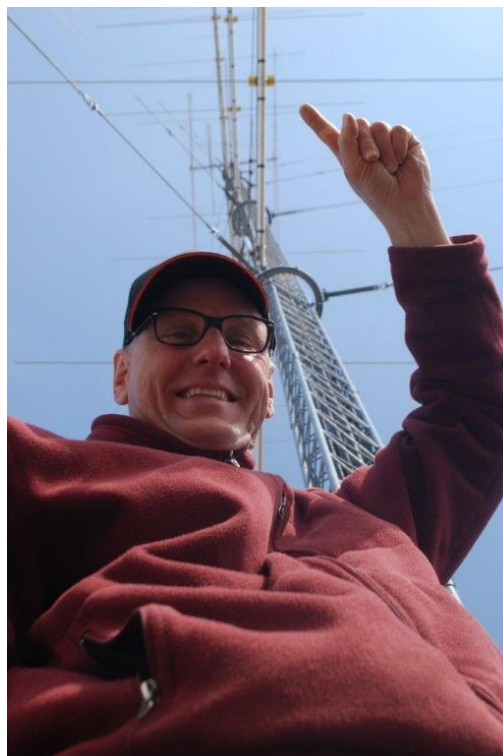
K9MCE QSN

Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2014

Mark Kerhlikar-WD9HBF's Winter Project Unveiled!

For most of us this winter has been long, harsh and cold, and we spent our time indoors. Not so for our club secretary Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF who loves winter. In fact it is safe to say that Mark THRIVES in winter. So while most of us hunkered down in the comfort of our heated homes, WD9HBF spent his winter months enjoying the two recreational things he loves most; namely, running his sled dogs and working ham radio. Mark decided he wanted to work DX in a major way and no longer as a little gun. No sir, Mark decided to join the ranks of the big guns; so over the winter, Kerhlikar toiled in the cold and his DX antenna farm soon grew into fruition! Mark is QRV from 160 meters through 70 centimeters! Mark financed this project, in part, by limiting his outings to Reno's pizza. Mark stated, "For Denise and I giving up Reno's was extremely hard, but the project is completed so look out Reno's!"



Mark proudly posing next to one of his towers. For more photos of Mark's project please see page 22.

K9MCE Club Meeting on Wednesday 2 April

Make plans now to attend the April Macoupin County ARC monthly club meeting at 7:00 pm on the second floor of the Macoupin County Sheriff Department, 215 S. East Street, Carlinville, IL 62626.

Prior to the club meeting the club has an informal dinner gathering at Reno's Pizza in the Carlinville Square starting

around 5:00 pm.

This month's program will feature Tim Coonrod, KC9HQA, professional electrician. Tim notes that a lot of hams will plug an unknown rig into the AC outlet and then notice smoke rolling out of the radio. Tim will show us how to avoid that and other pitfalls with his topic, "Variacs and Isolation trans-

formers for the Ham!"

This is a program you sure will not want to miss!

After the business meeting, W5YA VE testing is offered. Call Bill, W9FJ for an appointment @ 217-854-8261. Be sure to bring a copy of your license, some pencils and a non-programmable calculator.



From The Desk of The Secretary

YOU CAN DO IT!

A year ago this past March my friend Ron KOØZ, encouraged me to start the now weekly Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club NET. At first I was very apprehensive, and really I had no experience in running a net. I thought of every excuse to say "No." But I agreed to "try it." I can honestly say that I'm glad that he asked me.

What is a NET? Well for all you newcomers to the hobby a net is a "network of stations." In other words it is an on-the-air activity that is organized for a specific purpose. There are weather nets, ARES nets, traffic nets just to name a few. And that brings us to our K9MCE club net that meets EVERY THURSDAY at 8:30 PM local time on the WS9V linked repeater system at 444.250 MHz. The ARRL OPERAT-

ING MANUAL gives some very helpful guidelines about what a net is and how it operates: "Many nets meet on a regular basis and are conducted by a net control station who is responsible for organizing all communication during the net."

Well to say I was nervous when I first initiated the net last year is an understatement. But I was guided by my experience. I had already

[continued on page 26](#)

*"As a club
we've talked
about it, but as
of last month it
finally became
a reality"*

As a club we've talked about it, but as of last month it finally became a reality. Thanks to Lou, KC9YFU bringing in a roll of ticket stubs the Macoupin County ARC held its first 50/50 drawing immediately after the club meeting. Tickets cost \$1.00 per ticket or three for \$2.00.

At the March meeting, the club raised \$22.00 and Skip, WS9V was the winner. Skip decided to donate his half of the win-

nings back into the club treasury and the club thanks you Skip for your generosity!



And the luck winner is Skip, WS9V!

Macoupin County ARC Mission Statement:

We, the undersigned, being desirous of securing for ourselves the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio, by promoting civic interest, specific application, social activities and developing individual efficiency, while improving the general interest in amateur radio, do ordain and establish this Constitution and By-Laws of the Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club Inc., a non-profit corporation. We do further agree that in pursuit of these purposes, this organization shall be non-sectarian, non-partisan and that it shall lend neither support or influence to any political party or candidate for office. The Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club, Inc., shall afford all persons, regardless of race or creed an equal opportunity to join, participate, hold office and enjoy in the benefits of this organization and the challenges of amateur radio.



HAMFEST UPDATE: EXCITING FORUMS ADDED!

Great news regarding our hamfest update, The West Central Illinois Hamfest on Saturday, August 2, 2014 will now be offering forums! We are pleased to announce that there will be two exciting forums offered Saturday morning. At 8:00 AM, ARRL Illinois Section Manager Tom Ciciora, KA9QPN will be conducting the ARRL forum. Here's your chance to meet with your elected ARRL representative and find out first hand all the exciting news involving the ARRL in its centennial year!



Do you have any questions, concerns or comments regarding Illinois Traffic Nets then Tom is the person you will want to meet!

For the DX community, we are very fortunate to have Craig Thompson, K9CT presenting a forum over the Wake Island, K9W and Amsterdam Island, FT5ZM DXpeditions at 9:00

AM!

Craig is a world-class DXer and his contest station near



Trivoli is quite something to behold! Here's your chance to ask any DX questions you may have from a noted DX authority.



The excitement begins on Saturday, August 2 at the Macoupin County Fairgrounds!

ARRL W1AW Centennial Celebration Continues!

The ARRL is celebrating its one-hundredth anniversary! As part of the anniversary celebration W1AW is going portable to every state in the Union not once, but twice! All fifty states will be represented the first half of the year and then again in the second half. So if you haven't started to work W1AW portable it's still not too late to get Worked All States (WAS) W1AW!

During the month of April the

following states will be hosting W1AW:

The week of April 2, Pennsylvania and Oregon.

The week of April 9, Massachusetts and Virginia.

The week of April 16, Mississippi and North Dakota.

The week of April 23, New Jersey and New Hampshire

The week of April 30, Connecticut and Nevada.

The W1AW stations run CW, phone and digital modes on almost all of the HF frequencies both day and night. Here's your chance to earn WAS!



"It's still not too late to get Worked All States (WAS) W1AW!"

Your ARRL Central Division Contacts:

Director: Dick Isely, W9GIG; w9gig@arrrl.org 630-584-3510

Vice Director: Kermit Carlson, W9XA, w9xa@arrrl.org; 630-879-0983

Illinois Section Manager: Tom Ciciora, KA9QPN, ka9qpn@arrrl.org 815-498-4929



NorthMac Middle School Com-Tech Club Update



KC9ULA instructing her Com-Tech club at NorthMac Middle School in Girard.



"Had it hit Earth, it probably would have been like the big one in 1859," says Janet Luhmann of UC Berkeley,

Around twelve, dedicated, middle school students are staying after school to learn more about communications, technology and ham radio! Club sponsor, Debbie Ochu, KC9ULA couldn't be more pleased! At first the club meet during school hours, but that time was replaced with RTI (Response To Intervention) which necessitated the club to meet after school. Since middle school students don't drive, there were some concerns that few students would be able to make the club meetings. Alt-

hough that was true, there is still a large and more manageable number of students eager to learn!

This month the focus is on antennas and students will be learning antenna theory and how it applies to a Cushcraft Ringo Ranger VHF/UHF vertical and a Cushcraft I4 AVQ HF vertical antenna.



Assembling the dual-band vertical. Completed I4 AVQ HF ant.



NorthMac middle school students hard at work assembling antennas from an ARRL equipment grant.



Heliophysicists Buzzing Over CME Article

According the Spaceweather.com's website <http://www.spaceweather.com/> heliophysicists are talking about an article In Nature Communications magazine that compares a huge CME (Coronal Mass Ejection) on July 23, 2012 to the Carrington Event of 1859.

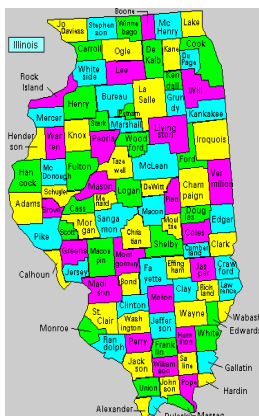
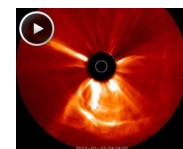
"Had it hit Earth, it probably would have been like the big one in 1859," says Janet Luhmann of UC Berkeley, a co-author of the paper. "The effect

today [on] our modern technologies would have been tremendous." according to Spaceweather.com

The Carrington Event was a series of CMEs that hit Earth head on, sparking Northern Lights as far south as Tahiti and induced so much voltage in global telegraph lines that some telegraph offices actually caught on fire!

This article brings up the good

point as to what would happen to ham radio technology? For further information on the article see the article at this URL: <http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2014/140318/ncomms4481/full/ncomms4481.html>



Will K9MCE activate Macoupin, Jersey and Greene counties?

K9MCE To Participate In Illinois QSO Party

The Western Illinois ARC sponsors the Illinois QSO Party and this year it will be held on Saturday October 18th. The party commences at 17:00 Z (Noon) to 01:00Z (8:00 pm). The idea of the party is to operate 160 – 2 meters (excluding the WARC bands) and to activate as many Illinois counties as possible.

Illinois stations give out RST and county, outside Illinois stations give RST and state,

province or country. There are five entry classes: IL Fixed Station, IL Portable, IL Mobile, IL Rover and Outside IL.

Jimmy WX9DX, Jim N9LQF and Ron, KO0Z are proposing that K9MCE get active with the QSO party this year as K9MCE Portable IL!

Jim suggests that the club activate the corner where Macoupin, Jersey and Greene counties converge. The club

could then activate three Illinois counties at once which would allow the club to give out and to receive big points!

The QSO Party promises to be an action packed, fun-filled eight hours of ham radio fun. Especially if we plan on serving lunch and dinner! I'm thinking BBQ here.

Let's bring this proposal up at the club meeting under new business!

Did You Spot The April Fools Stories in QST?

One of the ARRL's traditions in QST is to include some cleverly written, tongue-in-cheek articles for the April edition of QST. This year was no exception!

One of the funniest April Fools QST pranks was a cover photo in the 1980s depicting a ham servicing his yagi antenna by placing an extension ladder from his rooftop apex and leaning it against an yagi element while he was half way up the ladder!

In a recent ARRL website re-

lease, QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY wrote: "April Fool's" Tradition Continues in QST

03/10/2014

Although April Fool's Day is still a few weeks away, the April issue of QST is in the mail (and available now in digital form) with several pranks in store for readers.

"April Fool's pranks are well-established traditions in the publishing world, and QST magazine is no exception," said QST Editor in Chief Steve

Ford, WB8IMY. "The April Fool's tradition in QST goes back decades. Search the old issues and you'll find some very clever items."

The April 2014 issue of QST contains three April Fool's pieces, according to Ford. "Some are more obvious than others. We'll be curious to see how many readers spot the jokes."

How many K9MCE members found them?



April Fools edition of QST. Did you find the "bogus" articles?

Does K9MCE Need a Bylaws Committee?

Regarding the proposal of creating a Bylaws committee, at the March K9MCE meeting nothing was proposed, yet the need to reflect changes enacted by the club still needs to be updated in the club's Bylaws.

For example, the club voted to create a lifetime membership at the February meeting and that needs to be written into the Bylaws.

The Bylaws also require the

club's board of directors to meet twice a year, but that hasn't happened for quite some time.

The club's dues structure is out of date and those changes need to be reflected as well in the club's Bylaws.

President Gary Huff, K9AUB needs to appoint a Bylaws committee to make any recommended changes and then present those changes to the club

for a vote.



"The need to reflect changes enacted by the club still needs to be updated in the club's Bylaws."



Homebrew Night!

If you've been reading the "On Frequency With..." column in this newsletter, a recurring answer to the question, "What would you like to see more of in the club?", is more activities! Here's a club opportunity to start a new, exciting, worthwhile activity. May I suggest that the club have homebrew night as one of the late winter or early spring club meetings/programs so as to give members plenty of time to work on those projects during the long, cold, winter months.

We could have three categories: Transmitter/Receiver, Antenna-Feedline and Station Accessories. It would be nice to award prizes for these categories.

Here's our chance to promote "do it yourself" and to increase our proficiency not only as appliance operators, but builders as well!



KC9YFU holding a 4-400 A RF amplifier tube.

“KC9YFU is skilled at a refurbishing arcade games, but he also loves to restore juke boxes!”



Lou's refurbished arcade game. Do you remember playing these?!

On Frequency With Lou Bartels, KC9YFU

Nestled among homes in the southwest corner of Gillespie, IL is the QTH of Lou Bartels, KC9YFU and his bride of forty-four years, JoAnn! Lou and JoAnn have two children. Their son Buddy is a civil engineer working for the Army Corps of Engineers in Mahomet IL and he's working on his doctorate in engineering. His daughter, Crystal owns and manages a medical building in Marion, IL. JoAnn and Lou have six grandchildren. Three of their grandchildren are very familiar with ham radio. Lou enjoys introducing ham radio to all of his grandchildren and Cameron, Sharidan and Kierston have made QSOs on Grandpa's HW-101 HF radio!

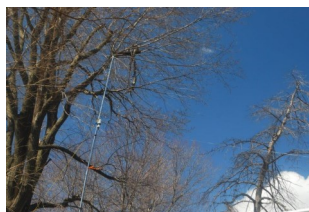
Grandpa Lou loves ham radio. It's hard to believe that Lou's been licensed less than two years! Lou took and passed his Technician license at Winterfest in January, 2013. In April of 2013, Lou passed his General class license at the Lewis and Clark, ARC. Not wishing to stop his momentum, Lou upgraded from General to Extra at this year's Winterfest in Collinsville late, last January! Way to go Lou!

Lou became interested in Amateur Radio when his dad bought a Knight Kit Night Star Ranger shortwave receiver. Lou's dad couldn't help but notice that his son loved building crystal radio sets and working on anything electrical or mechanical that he could get his hands on! Lou still has that burning desire to tinker around with electrical-mechanical objects. For instance, Lou just refurbished an old bowling arcade game so that it looks brand new! As a matter of fact, Lou discovered that he made, so he took one of his good pins for a model, fabricated he fabricates his own plastic bowling pins enthusiasts, like himself, for these next arcade game pins! KC9YFU is skilled at a games, but he also loves to restore juke boxes that he's particularly proud of at proud owner of a 1951 Rock-Ola and a box. Lou mentioned that the Rock-Ola uses 6L6 audio amplifier tubes and both jukeboxes play 45 rpm records. KC9YFU has drawers filled with classic 45 rpm records. Yep, it's safe to write that Lou still loves to tinker with anything electro-mechanical which is one of the reasons why Lou enjoys the hobby of Amateur Radio!



KC9YFU's 1968 LS2 Seeburg and 1951 Rock-Ola jukeboxes.

KC9YFU keeps himself busy even though he's retired from commercial photography. Lou's dad was a photographer and when Lou finished his two year stint with the U.S. Army in 1973 he took his tax return and invested it in a nice, commercial grade camera, hung out his shingle and established his photography studio in Gillespie. Even though Lou's "officially" retired he still keeps busy shooting senior pictures during the summer. In addition to photography, Lou also retired from a railroad repair shop owned by Annheuser Busch. Now that Lou is retired, that leaves more time for ham radio and Lou enjoys participating on HF net operations. The OMISS net is one of his favorite HF nets. Lou as Worked All States (WAS) and to help him keep track of who is on which net, KC9YFU uses a free software program, Netlogger 2.4. Lou gets out surprisingly well, a short, end fed wire off a balun that is draped QTH! On top of the mast supporting one end cone vertical antenna for VHF and UHF. In ous nets, Lou enjoys hanging out on 40 meter, specifically on a frequency of 7.150 MHz. hams that Lou's befriended and he's learned a



On Frequency With Continued...

quite a bit from these FB fellows over the air!

Lou, KC9YFU is local, home-grown lad. He graduated from Mt. Olive High School in 1969 and in 1971 he was drafted by the Army. Lou held a number of positions in the Army, but one that he remembers most was as a company CBR (Chemical, radiological, biological) training sergeant. Military service did not deter Lou from marrying his wife JoAnn in 1970.

Now days Lou low bands. When what would be his and said something than the one I have future ham radio two towers that putting them up at

Meanwhile, Lou is people to meet pushes down the phone switch, it amazes him that his voice is traveling around the globe at near the speed of light!



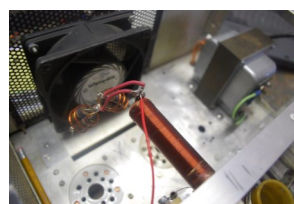
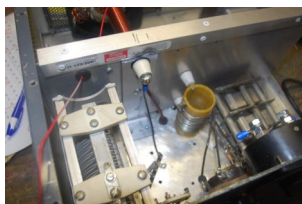
enjoys "ragchewing" on the asked if he won the lottery dream rig, KC9YFU grinned to the effect of a newer rig now! In the meantime, his plans include taking down were given to him and then his Gillespie QTH.

content to listen for new and each and every time he contacts of his PTT micro-



Lou's HF transceiver, the venerable Heathkit, HW-101.

KC9YFU is never without any projects and one in particular will enable Lou to project his voice more forcefully when he finishes his amplifier project. Lou's acquired some 4-400 A amplifier tubes that he plans to mount in a homebrew amplifier. He has the chassis of an old amplifier and Lou is slowly gathering the parts for his amp. His biggest obstacle now is finding a suitable transformer that will give him 3000 volts with one amp of current.



KC9YFU is currently working on building a home-brew HF amplifier using two 4-400 A tubes.

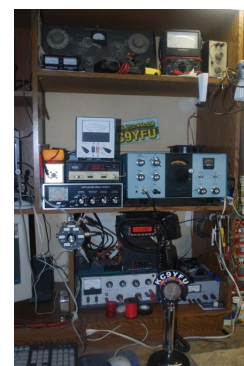
"KC9YFU is never without any projects and one in particular will enable Lou to project his voice more forcefully when he finishes his amplifier project."



Lou's lollipop microphone.



Lou's attractive, homemade QSL card!



KC9YFU's station. A Heath HW 101, MFJ Tuner, Yaesu FT 7900 Dual band FM radio.

LETCHER COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

HAMFEST 2014

SATURDAY APRIL 12, 2014

Masonic Lodge Building

65 Webb Street - Whitesburg, Ky. 41858

Info: 606-848-2954, 606-633-8086 or kk4wh@arrl.net

Set up begins at 6:00am with doors opening at 8:00am

MEET ARRL KY. SECTION MANAGER JIM BROOKS - KY4Z

Inside table \$5.00/per (table provided)

Parking lot tailgating Free (limited space)

Admission \$2.00/per person donation.
Everyone with an admission ticket will be entered for the door prizes. Extra tickets will be available to increase your chances.

Must Be Present To Win Door Prizes But Not GRAND Prize.

Multiple door prizes including a 65 watt
Kenwood TM-281 - 2 meter mobile to be
given away at approximately 11:00am
(Must be present to win)



Talk In Frequencies
145.350 (-) PL 186.2
224.960 (-) PL 203.5

GRAND PRIZE

SAVAGE STEVENS 320 SECURITY

12 GAUGE PUMP SHOTGUN 5 + 1 SHOT

Tickets available from any LCARC member
or call (606) 848-2954
and leave a message.

\$2.00 donation per ticket or 6 for \$10.00



(Do Not Have To Be Present To Win)

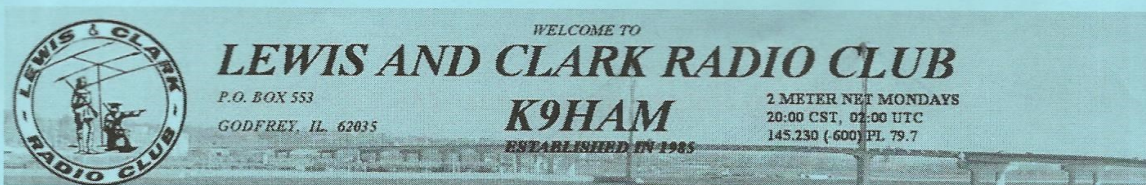
Testing all Amateur License Classes

By the Harlan Co. & Perry Co.

VE Teams

Food Sold on Premises
No animals except service animals
No Smoking in building

LCARC HAMFEST



EARLY WARNING
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
LEWIS & CLARK RADIO CLUB
2014 HAMFEST

SATURDAY – APRIL 26, 2014 - 7 AM to NOON

LOCATION: "RIVER BEND ARENA"
LEWIS & CLARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GODFREY, ILLINOIS 62035

Large Indoor Facilities - Commercial Vendors
Flea Market Tables \$12.00 Each

EARLY VENDOR ACCESS FRIDAY 6-9 PM – SATURDAY 5:30AM

For Reservations & Additional Information Contact
Lewis And Clark Radio Club - Hamfest Committee

email: hamfest@k9ham.org or Call Jacques (KN9O) at 618-401-5558

Commercial Vendors Free Parking Door Prizes
Handicapped Accessible Facility Food & Refreshments

License Exams – All Classes, ARRL Format
Pre-Registration Required For Technician Exams

Contact Dennis Hutchins (WA9RD) at wa9rd@charter.net

Lewis & Clark Community College Is Located Approximately
25 Miles North Of Downtown St. Louis On U.S. Route 67,
Just North Of Alton, Illinois.

Once you are on campus just look for the signs directing you to the
Lewis & Clark Radio Club Hamfest.

Visit our Web-site: www.k9ham.org Talk-In Will Be On K9ham Repeater 145.230(-) PL 79.7



48th ANNUAL

2014 ARRL/CSVHFS VHF Communications Conference

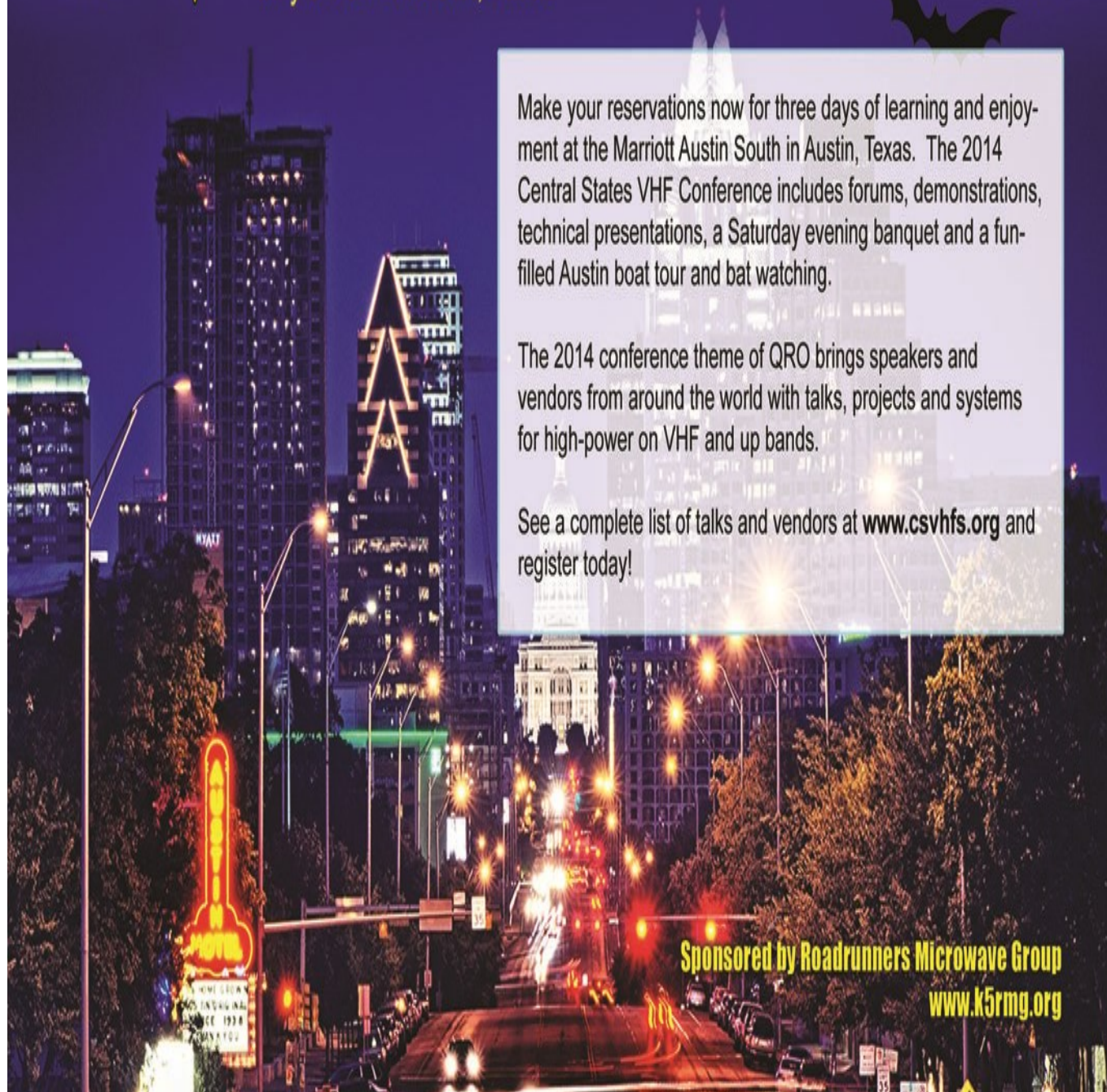
July 24-27 in Austin, Texas

Make your reservations now for three days of learning and enjoyment at the Marriott Austin South in Austin, Texas. The 2014 Central States VHF Conference includes forums, demonstrations, technical presentations, a Saturday evening banquet and a fun-filled Austin boat tour and bat watching.

The 2014 conference theme of QRO brings speakers and vendors from around the world with talks, projects and systems for high-power on VHF and up bands.

See a complete list of talks and vendors at www.csvhfs.org and register today!

Sponsored by Roadrunners Microwave Group
www.k5rmg.org



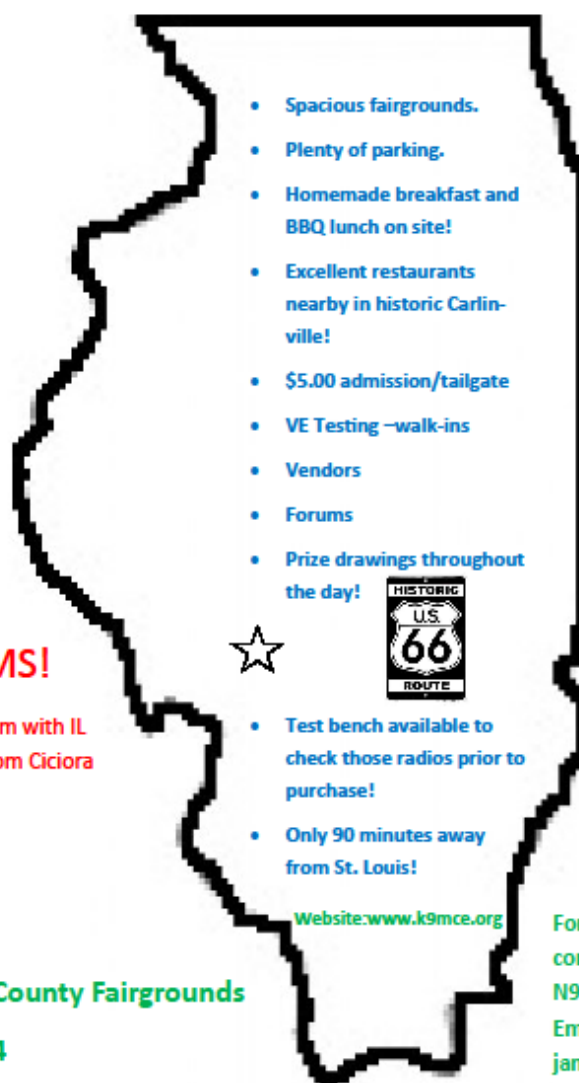
WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS HAMFEST

SATURDAY AUGUST 2, 2014

7:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

K9MCE-W9BXR

TALK - IN 444.250 (103.5 PL) WS9V/R



FORUMS!

8:00 AM ARRL Forum with IL
Section Manager Tom Ciciora
— KA9QPN

Macoupin County Fairgrounds

21368 Rte 4

Carlinville, IL 62626

FORUMS!

9:00 AM Craig
Thompson, K9CT
operator of K9W
and FT5ZM DXpedi-
tions!

For more information
contact Jim Pitchford,
N9LQF 217-854-3352.
Email:
james@royell.org

GPS COORDINATES: N 39.18.455, W 89.52.671

Battery Backup

TO: Jimmy, N9LQF

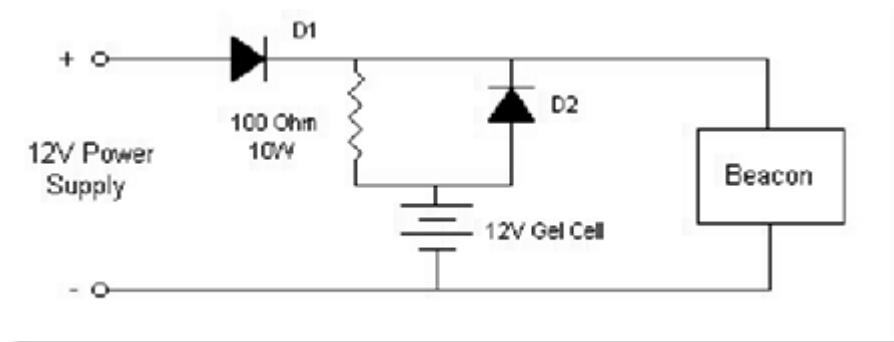
And the Macoupin County ARC

Hey you all, thought I'd send out a quick note:

The circuit they use on this page comes from GE Two Way Radio Base Stations way back. They used this circuit to charge the battery through the resistor and to switch to the battery when the power feed to the building went away. The beacon side is the radio. The diode needs to be able to handle more current than the radio needs to operate. The resistor is set for a value to trickle charge the battery. And D1 should be the same as D2. The Battery could be a sealed lead acid, but to be safe use a sealed Marine Gel Cell. Fuse everything also please, the input and output of this circuit both need fuses. Be sure to use the Fuse in the radio line that is called for by the MFR.

73,

Jimmy, ARRL TC, WX9DX



40 Meter Bazooka Antenna

A little over a week ago, I met over Skip's repeater, Dave Challans, WD9N from Ramsey, IL. As it turns out Dave, knows my brother-in-law when Dave was the EMA director for Fayette County. As often happens, way led on to way and Dave told me about his homebrew antennas. He directed me to his blog site and gave me verbal permission to publish his antenna information in our club newsletter. Tnx Dave!

Saturday, April 30, 2011

40m Double Bazooka build by Dave Challans, WD9N of Ramsey, IL

I just built another bazooka, this one for 40m. I used the Carol rg-6 and the same method of build I used before with one exception; this time I used 1/2" cpvc with caps on it to create a tube to enclose the shorting point. I drilled a hole just large enough for the mixing tip on the epoxy to fit and "injected" the epoxy into the tube. So far it seems to be a strong joint on the 40m antenna. I had it in the air last

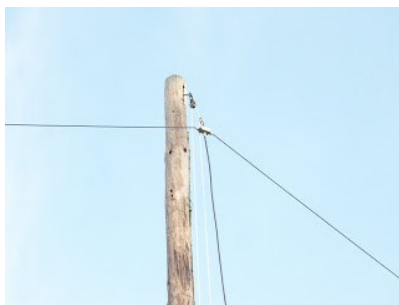
night and most of this morning with winds gusting to around 20mph.

The bandwidth on this antenna has exceeded my expectations. I have the entire band below 2:1. This antenna is actually resonant toward the low end of the band so it is hard to get an accurate 1.5:1 bandwidth, unless you are willing to TX out of the amateur spectrum. (I am not.)

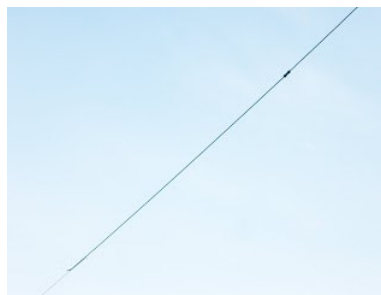
I believe if I trimmed the ends it would put the entire band below 1.5:1. This antenna is slated to go to WB8CHE so I left the antenna as is so that he could trim it to his preference. I have been using the antenna to make a few contacts and test it out before mailing it to Russ. I have went from the bottom of the SSB segment to the top without the use of a tuner and get full output from my Yaesu ft-450AT.



Most of the antenna on the 21' pole. I have the antenna pretty tight just to



The unpainted conduit body at the feed point.



The epoxy filled tube over the shorting point (Kind of looks like a caterpillar!)



Close up of the epoxy cpvc tube over the shorting point.



My method of attaching a rope to the end.



The complete antenna rolled up and ready to go.

The ends of the antenna are left raw. During installation the SWR gets checked and the ends can be trimmed to raise the resonant frequency of the antenna. This antenna is a bit long so that it is resonant more toward the bottom end of the band. This allows the antenna to be tuned for the particular installation. (Better to trim than figure out how to add!). After it is tuned, the ends should be sealed with epoxy, or silicone sealant would also work.

Illinois ARRL Section Manager News

By Tom Ciciora — KA9QPN



Full News with links and pics at
<http://www.arrl.org/sections/view/illinois>.

From the top...

**For those who came in late, there were no challenging nomination petitions received at HQ for the next SM term. Consequently, I was declared 'reelected' for a new two year term starting on 1 July. I'm going to make the gratuitous assertion that everyone is content if not happy, and for that I thank you all. I am happy to remain at your service.

 **The current leadership team will stay intact. (Sorry, folks: when I getcha, I keeps ya.)

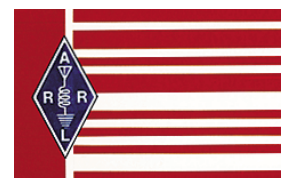
**The neverending winter caused Kermit W9XA and I to cancel our annual trip to the Sterling/Rock Falls Hamfest. This really irks me, as I enjoy that excursion and visiting with all y'all. I'm beginning to sound like a Cubs fan with these hamfest visit misfires..."Wait until next year!"

**...sorry...too easy...
 ++++++

Get informed...

**Rumbles from a single incident where a ham was cited for a supposed violation of the hands-free law. Amazingly, he was ticketed for 'using a CB' while moving...which is also on the exemption list. I don't see this as the beginning of a wide misinterpretation of the law, and this particular citation will most likely get scolded out of the courtroom. Regardless, I am pursuing contacts through the state Police Chief's Association to make certain that the rank-and-file officers understand where we fall in the scheme of that law. As I've said earlier: if you are stopped and cannot make the officer understand that two-way radios generally are exempt from the law, smile and accept the ticket. It will disappear in court when you point out the exemption to the city prosecutor. There is no value in trying to litigate it curbside. Please remember that this is a single incident in a single jurisdiction, and we needn't panic, overreact, or take an adversarial position.

 **We need to remember that in all instances where we have exemptions to laws and regulations, be it PRB-I, our state antenna law, callsign license plates, or the hands-free/distracted driving laws, we aren't "entitled" to a thing. All of these accommodations were hard-earned by those who came before us through public service and being there when it mattered. This tells us two things. First, we need to continue to "pay the rent" for these accommodations and for our frequencies generally. As I've been saying since 2006: "fostering international goodwill" ain't gonna get it done. And, we should be grateful for these accommodations when we have to throw that particular card. Just point out what is there without being demanding.



**Weather spotter training is rolling along. If you can't get to a live spotter session, there are still the MetEd online courses. These count just the same as a live course. The key to becoming proficient as a spotter is to get out and look at things once you get that initial training. The NWS classes given these days are vastly improved over the 35mm slides that I learned from nearly 40 years ago, but there is no substitute for getting out there and observing real clouds.

 **Interesting article from the Wall Street Journal on RFI. The subject is extremely diluted so Joe Six-Pack and Janie Lunchbox can follow along without a headache. The short version is that the FCC is still very happy to crack on owners of random devices that interfere with licensed services. (Adapted from a FB post)

 Around the Section...

**Once again, Don Whitney K9DRW and Lake County ARES-RACES are going to take lead on providing a SKYWARN/Amateur Radio informational booth at Tom Skilling's Fermilab Severe Weather Seminars on 5 April. ECs in the Chicago/Romeoville NWS office area of responsibility either have or will soon be contacted via email by Don to solicit staffing. It's a long day and evening, but a great time meeting people and evangelizing for the Service. I've been in since the beginning five or six years ago, and it never seems like the 10-12 hour day that it is. If your EC hasn't put the call out for volunteers, why not ask him if he's heard from Don yet? You don't have to be in for the duration, but any time that you can give will be appreciated. This is a great time to be trolling for newcomers, as we're still doing amazing things with RF and communications and providing a little something for everyone.

 **From Will Sperling K9WSS: "A contingent of Bolingbrook ARS officers (President Scott Hagner KC9UTC, Secretary Russell Rezaian AB9UE, and myself Will Sperling K9WSS) presented Mayor Roger Claar with a plaque for the Mayor's support of our organization. The Village recently purchased a new Motorola MTR-3000 100 watt VHF repeater, controller, & duplexer for our BARS 147.330 system. The Village owns and maintains (through their contractor's technicians) our VHF (147.330) and UHF (443.525) repeater systems, performs routine maintenance, and in return BARS assists with parades and other community events." BARS has a unique arrangement with the village whereby they provide the equipment and maintenance for the systems. Recognition for relief of that cost is well deserved. (Pics and copy of plaque below)

**From Tim McDonough N9PUZ: "On Saturday, February 23rd local hams from the Sangamon Valley Radio Club and the Capitol Area Amateur Radio Emergency Response Team (ARES) provided communications resources to support the American Lung Association Fight for Air Stair Climb in Springfield. In addition to routine traffic we were able to guide emergency medical personnel to two different injured climbers and help return a lost child to its parents. It was a good day!" (Pic below.)



K9MCE March Meeting Photo Recap



Reno's Pizzeria on the Carlinville square.



Great pizza and other Italian dishes, a K9MCE favorite.



Roman and Debbie, KC9ULA enjoying a pizza.



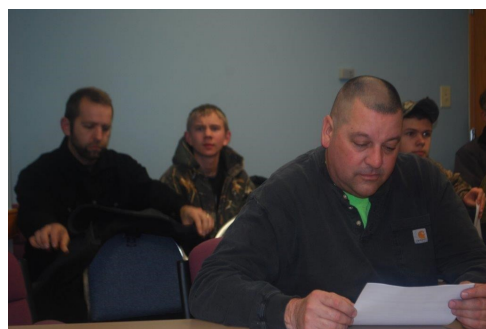
K9MCE pre-meeting at Reno's for good food, company and conversation.



President Gary, K9AUB conducting the meeting.



K9MCE members in attendance.



Skip, WS9V and guests.



Hello to our guests, Chris and Tommy Jordan. We hope to see you again!



Hello to our guest Sam Koebbe!



Jared, KC9ZMD motioning to take Sam's picture.



KC9ULA, KC9YFU, WS9V, Chris and Tommy Jordon.



Tom, KC9WOH perusing the ARRL Field Resources Manual and Mark, WD9HBF writing the minutes.



Debbie, KC9ULA, Ron, KO0Z and Lou, KC9YFU Getting tied up in the 50/50 drawing!



Mark, WD9HBF, "Look out, it's a 2 meter yagi And I'm not afraid to use it!"



K9MCE club members and guests look on...



Lou, KC9YFU with his 50/50 helper!

MINUTES K9MCE ARC MEETING

March 5th, 2014

Meeting Called to Order: by K9AUB Gary H @ 7:01 PM

Introductory comments by the President: Gary H thanked Ron for conducting the meeting on the repeater last month; Gary said that he was sick.

Roll Call of Officers: President Gary Huff – K9AUB-present
 Vice President Ron Ochu - KO0Z-present
 Secretary Mark Kerhlikar - WD9HBF-present
 Treasurer Jim Pitchford -N9LQF-present

Directors: Isaac Pizzo KC9NJW-present
 Hugh Watson AB9UB- present
 Mark Osborn WA9SXX-absent
 Tim Coonrod KC9HQA-present

Welcome New Members/Guest: Misty Green and sons Laidyn Jones, Preston Jones; Sam Koebbe; Chris Jordan and his son Tommy Jordan.

Roll Call of Members: Charlie R. KB9OXH, Skip R. WS9V, Jim P N9LQF, Tim C. KC9HQA,
 Lou B KC9YFU, Tom T KC9WOH, Gary H K9AUB, Mark K WD9HBF,
 Paul D. KC9YCP, Jared S. KC9ZMD, Debbie O, KC9ULA, Ron O. KO0Z,
 Isaac P. KC9NJW, Hugh W AB9UB, Bill O W9FJ.

Agenda Items:

MOTION TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES:

February 5th, 2014, MCARC Club Meeting (because of inclement weather, the meeting was held on the WS9V repeater and conducted by Vice President Ron O.)

Motioned by: Hugh W 2nd by: Tim C

.

CLUB OFFICER REPORTS

Secretary Report: Mark Kerhlikar WD9HBF

Mark K reminded everyone to check into the club's net on Thursday evenings at 8:30 PM on this linked repeater system, 444.250 machine. All amateurs, not just Macoupin County members, are encouraged to check-in.

Treasurer Report: Jim Pitchford N9LQF

Current as of Feb 28, 2014: \$1986.13

Repeater fund \$ 1100.00

Jim has not yet added to the repeater fund from the regular club dues collected. We have received through the mail membership dues from Dave Wiles

The following have yet to pay their dues:

Don Challans

Mark Kaiser

Mark and Orin Wilcox

Mike Graham

Motion to approve the Treasure Report

Made by: Jim P

2nd: by Ron O.

Motioned carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hamfest: Chairman, Tim Coonrod KC9HQA CO-Chairman Mark Osborn WA9SXX, Garry Wnuk AC9FF, Ron Ochu KOØZ

Tim C asked for volunteers to run the test bench and Ron O and Mark K have volunteered.

Ron O has contacted Tom C our ARRL section manager has agreed to come down and present the ARRL forum.

Ron O also suggested getting Craig K9CT to present about the Amsterdam Island Dxpediton.

Skip suggested that we might ask Craig K9CT to issue cards from the Amsterdam Island FT5 dxpedition.

Also if Skip's official appointment as a card checker goes through, we could advertise this on the flyer along with the appearance of K9CT.

Table fee for the hamfest for individuals is an additional \$5.00 BUT that fee is waived for VENDORS.

Lou suggested advertising our hamfest on certain websites.

Field Day: Chairman, Bill Emmons KC9OHE & CO-Chairman Tim Coonrod KC9HQA, Dave Wiles, Mark Kerhlikar WD9HBF, Ron Ochu KOØZ.

Boy Scout camp is available us and the entire 400 acres is available to us. A lot of organizing has to happen in order for this to take place this June OR we could work on this for next year. Tom T said that the Boy Scout calendar starts back in August.

K9MCE Website Committee: Chairman, Isaac Pizzo KC9NJW

Isaac reported that he changed the format a bit, and the calendar needs to be updated. There is now a link for all the newsletters. There is now a direct link to the Secretary of State for ham plates.

VP of Emergency Communication: Chairman, Jim Pitchford N9LQF

Jim P sent an email out to everyone that announced that a Springfield Police auxiliary unit in cooperation with the Springfield Valley Amateur Radio Club is looking for amateur radio operators to volunteer to help during the St. Patrick's Day Parade coming up later this month.

Club Minutes Continued...

Emergency Communication Report on ARES in Macoupin County:

Chairman, Bill Ogle W9FJ

Please check in every Thursday evening at 9:00 PM following the 8:30 net.

Jim P announced that there will be another AUX COMM class (which will be the third class) offered this year and last year several members attended including Ron O, Mark K, and Skip.

The focus of AUX COMM class is to get amateur radio operators to realize that they are auxiliary radio communicators and how we fit into the National Incident System. Skip R, Ron O and Mark K shared their experiences from the AUXCOM class. Please contact Jim P if you wish to participate in this class.

Every Thursday Evening ARES Emergency Net 147.480 MHz Simplex at 9:00 pm. Bill Ogle W9FJ runs this net every Thursday evening and encourages everyone to check-in.

OTHER AREA NETS OF INTEREST

MCARC NET meets on 444.250 WS9V repeater at 8:30 PM every THURSDAY.

A.R.E.S. HF NET 3.905 MHz at 4:30PM on 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month called by districts. Anyone can check into this net, and it is a good learn about traffic handling.

Every SUNDAY MORNING at 8:00 is the ILLINOIS EMERGENCY NET on 3.940 MHz

Every SUNDAY MORNING at 8:10 is the ILLINOIS TRAFFIC NET on 3.940 MHz

Illinois Traffic Net meets every evening at 3.905 MHz at 6:00 PM

Interstate SSB Net 3.985 MHz at 7:00 pm

Old Business: Jim P reiterated that we can take a year to plan the Field Day Boy Scout event. Tom T also said that we need to put this event on the Boy Scout calendar which really starts in August.

Ron O reported that the North Mac Middle School Tech club group now has to meet after school and still got 16-18 students showing up at an after school event.

Ron O also explained that in order to use the library or science room at the school, the club needs proof of liability insurance. Jim P said that Dave O Dell could provide that policy.

Ham Cram will be the name of the class that will be on Saturday's to be held at the school to help assist the students or anyone wishing to receive their TECHNICIAN's class license.

John King's daughter in Greenville who is a school teacher has several materials organized to help her students' club and Jim P. indicated those materials may be available as a resource.

New Business:

Ron O. suggested that anyone interested in becoming a new ARRL member or a renewing member that we should do it through our club treasurer because: if you wish to join the ARRL for the first time the membership fee is \$39.00 and the club will retain \$15.00. If you are presently an ARRL member and you wish to renew the club will receive \$2.00. Ron O provided Jim P with the necessary paperwork that he needs to fill out and forward to the league.

Program: Ron O was going to present to the club the idea of building a 2M antenna that the club could build.

Skip R made a motion to grant Isaac Pizzo LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP status in the Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club for his continuous work at keeping the website up and running.

Motion was seconded by Bill O.

Motion carried, congratulations Isaac!!

Motion to Adjourn Meeting@ 7:46

Motion made by: Tom T 2nd by: Hugh W

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING:**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND 2013**

WD9HBF's Winter Project Continued ...



WD9HBF's stacked Steppir yagis at 60 and 90 feet.



Mark's array of OWA (Optimum Wide Array) yagis



Rather than go with a rhombic for the low bands, Mark decided to go with a 4 square vertical array instead. Mark said putting in the ground radials was the toughest part; especially in the winter time...frozen ground!



WD9HBF getting ready to check the tension on his guy wires. He elevated them for mowing.



No Ham IV rotors for Mark. No sir, he prefers to rotate his entire tower!



If your wife is on board with a new antenna system, then maybe she won't mind a new shack with an Elecraft K-3 to go with it!



Mark really appreciated Garry, AC9FF's fine presentation on good station grounding, and he wanted to do it right. Notice the polyphasers, coax and grounding plate all at a single point ground.



*Jim of Jim's
Engraving is a
"local" ham —
KF4NBG from
Pocahontas, IL.*

Jim's Engraving
Ham shack essentials
for the ham that has everything
www.jimsengraving.com

Quality custom engraved mirrors that are lit up from the bottom using multi-color led's
For the wood base, I stock walnut, cherry, mahogany and oak.
For more information, email me at
Jim@jimsengraving.com

K9MCE QSN Contact Information:

K9MCE QSN is a monthly publication of the Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club. Our club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm on the second floor of the Macoupin County Sheriff Department in Carlinville, IL

Editors: Mark Kerhilikar, WD9HFB. mkerhilikar@gmail.com

Ron Ochu, KO0Z. ronochu.sky@gmail.com

Repeaters: 444.250 (103.5 pl); 146.865 (103.5 pl).

Website: www.k9mce.org

Webmaster: Issac Pizzo, KC9NJW

Testing: Bill Ogle, W9FJ 217-685-0711



Macoupin County
Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 253
Carlinville, IL 62626-
0253

April 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<i>1</i> April Fools Day	<i>2</i> K9MCE CLUB MEETING, 7:00 PM. Pre-meeting dinner – Reno's Pizza at 5:00 pm.	<i>3</i> K9MCE NET @ 8:30 PM, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 (103.5 pl) Macoupin Cnty ARES Net, W9FJ Net Control @ 9:00 pm, 147.480	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> Clinton Cnty ARES Net @ 8:30 pm on 444.250 (103.5 pl) Okaw Valley ARC Net @ 9:00 pm on 444.250 (103.5 pl) N9MAF Net, 146.805 (94.8) at 9:00 pm	<i>7</i> W9EVY Memo- rial Net @ 8:30 pm on 146.820	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> K9MCE NET @ 8:30 PM, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 (103.5 pl) Macoupin Cnty ARES Net, W9FJ Net Control @ 9:00 pm, 147.480	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> Clinton Cnty ARES Net @ 8:30 pm on 444.250 (103.5 pl) Okaw Valley ARC Net @ 9:00 pm on 444.250 (103.5 pl) N9MAF Net, 146.805 (94.8) at 9:00 pm	<i>14</i> W9EVY Memorial Net @ 8:30 pm on 146.820	<i>15</i> Full Moon	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> K9MCE NET @ 8:30 PM, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 (103.5 pl) Macoupin Cnty ARES Net, W9FJ Net Control @ 9:00 pm, 147.480	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> Clinton Cnty ARES Net @ 8:30 pm on 444.250 (103.5 pl) Okaw Valley ARC Net @ 9:00 pm on 444.250 (103.5 pl) N9MAF Net, 146.805 (94.8) at 9:00 pm ARRL Rookie RU SSB	<i>21</i> W9EVY Memorial Net @ 8:30 pm on 146.820	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> K9MCE NET @ 8:30 PM, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 (103.5 pl) Macoupin Cnty ARES Net, W9FJ Net Control @ 9:00 pm, 147.480	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Lewis and Clark Hamfest, 7- Noon, Godfrey, IL International Mar- coni Day more info www.gb4imd.com
<i>27</i> Clinton Cnty ARES Net @ 8:30 pm on 444.250 (103.5 pl) Okaw Valley ARC Net @ 9:00 pm on 444.250 (103.5 pl) N9MAF Net, 146.805 (94.8) at 9:00 pm	<i>28</i> W9EVY Memorial Net @ 8:30 pm on 146.820	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>			



From the Desk of the Secretary Continued

checked into many area nets and even more importantly I listened to how they were organized. I also listened to many HF nets on other bands. So I really had no excuse at all, I knew that "I could do it!" And guess what so can you!! If you have never operated a NET before I encourage you to try it and get gain the experience of being the operator in control of the communication. I have developed a script that I follow so I don't get confused. I have it printed and ready to go before the net starts. I also have a list of announcements that I have gathered from different sources but many of them come from on-the-air conversations that other hams ask me to announce. Plus every so often I pose a question that is designed to get hams talking about their stations and what they are involved with in the hobby. At other times I just simply ask "How are things with you this evening?"

The biggest payoff of being a net control operator is the experience you carry with you when and if you are involved with an emergency situation. For most of us that might mean communicating with the National Weather Service during severe weather events. Knowing how to express yourself quickly and accurately is very important in emergency situations.

So, what are you waiting for? YOU CAN DO IT! After all we are all in this hobby to operate our radios AND have fun doing it! Please contact me at mkerhlikar@gmail.com to get more information on when you will be the next NET CONTROL OPERATOR for the K9MCE Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club Net. 73's and see you on the air THURSDAY evening at 8:30 PM.





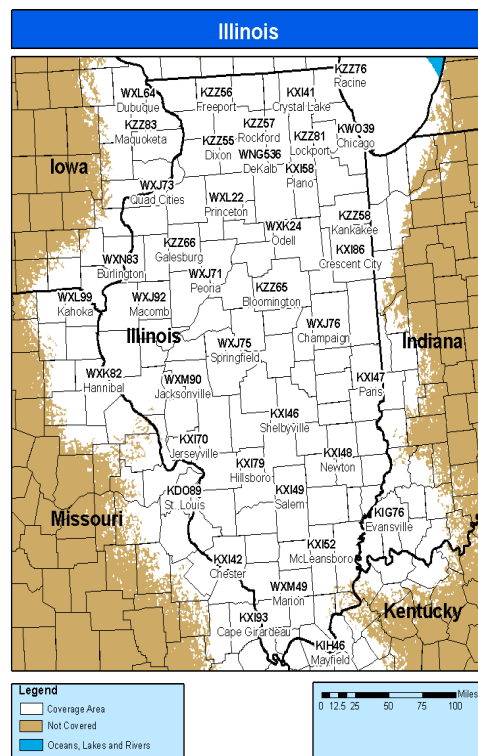
**We're on the
web!
www.k9mce.org**

IL NOAA NWS WX Radio Stations

Ward Silver, N0AX makes it a point to program his VHF/UHF FM radios with the seven frequencies nationally assigned to NWS so that when he is on the road he is within the coverage area of a NWS transmitter. These frequencies are 162.400, 162.425, 162.450, 162.475, 162.500, 162.525 and 162.550. Keep in mind that not all NWS transmitters have the same output power. For instance, KD089 out of St. Louis and WXJ75 out of Springfield, IL have 1000 watts; whereas, KXI79 in Hillsboro runs 300 watts. A good URL to see the various NWS stations and their respective output power is <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/Maps/PHP/illinois.php>

Besides being up to date with the latest NWS information these stations can also serve as good VHF propagation beacons. Listen to the various frequencies and see where and how well the station is coming in to your location.

Springtime and summer months brings enhanced VHF propagation during the morning and evening hours.



Illinois HF Traffic Nets, Times and Frequencies...

Illinois Side Band Net - Net Manager WB9QPM

Daily on 3905 at 1800 local time

Illinois Phone Net - Net Manager K9GYI

M-F on 3857 at 1645 local time

Sunday on 3940 at 0810 local time - right after the Illinois Emergency Net

Illinois Emergency Net - Net Manager K9HEZ

Sunday on 3940 at 0800 local time

North Central Phone Net - Net Manager K9HEZ

M-F on 3912 at 0700 local time

Illinois CW Net (ILN) Net Manager WB8SIM

W9NXM reporting

Daily on 3838 at 1915 local time

Nets