

K9MCE QSN



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January 2013

Volume 1, Issue 1

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K9MCE Editors: Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF and Ron Ochu, KO0Z

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K9MCE QSN Debuts!



It's been quite some time since the Macoupin County ARC published a newsletter. Throughout 2012 there was some club discussion about getting a newsletter together, but the idea would wither away mostly because publishing it would be a lot of work. Like a lot of things in life, most worthwhile goals do require a lot of work.

For example, at Rice University on September 12, 1962 President Kennedy in an attempt to

rally our nation to put our full economic, philosophical and physical support behind the space program told the nation, "We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too..."

Rest assured, that this publication is no where near as ambitious as going to the moon! However, it will be an attempt to "measure out" the best that collectively K9MCE has to offer to not only ourselves, but the ham radio community as well. This publication will not replace the excellent job of the club's website, www.k9mce.org; rather, it's intended purpose is supplement our website by providing another club communications avenue on a monthly basis which will hopefully provide a forum for the exchange of ideas that will enhance the ham radio avocation.

Together we can accomplish lofty goals!

NEW CLUB LOGO

Thanks to the creative efforts of Jim Pitchford, N9LQF, Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF, Ron Ochu, KO0Z and the professional graphic design skills of N9LQF's daughter Lori K9MZE, the club voted on a new club logo at the December meeting.



STORM SPOTTING CLASS ANNOUNCED



SKYWARN

In spite of budget decreases the National Weather Service is still planning to offer SKYWARN Storm Spotting

Classes but on a less frequent basis. Consequently, for this area a class will be offered at Lincoln Land Community College's Student Union at 5250 Shepherd Road, Springfield, IL 62794 on Monday March 4, 2013 at 6:30 pm.

There is no charge to attend this class and anyone with an interest in weather should make plans to attend. Ham radio operators provide a very valuable service for National Weather Service meteorologists and it is vital

to provide timely and accurate storm reports. This class will equip every ham operator in attendance with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide an invaluable community service. And in addition, it's a fun, informative class to attend for the newcomer and the veteran spotter alike.

Perhaps K9MCE could get a car pool together to attend this meeting. So mark your brand new 2013 calendars now!



K9MCE QSN?

Readers may be wondering as to how the club newsletter derived its name. Well, a few months ago when Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF and Ron Ochu, KO0Z decided to co-publish a club newsletter the obvious question of a title came up. A number of ideas emerged such as the Ma-

coupin County ARC Vector Analysis (too technical) or Macoupin County ARC On Frequency (too long). Ham Radio Q signals seemed to a good place from where to search so we started looking there. Announcement or QST would be a likely choice, but that's already taken. We

liked the idea of being able "to voice" what's important and what's being heard in the club. Since QSN means I did hear you and a decision needed to be made by deadline time K9MCE QSN came into being...

K9MCE Macoupin County ARC Meeting

The Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club's monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday January 2, 2013 at 7:00 pm on the top floor of the Macoupin County Sheriff Department located at 215 S. East Street, Carlinville, IL 62626. Everyone is invited to a pre-meeting get-together/dine-in at Reno's Pizza in the Carlinville Square at 5:30 pm.

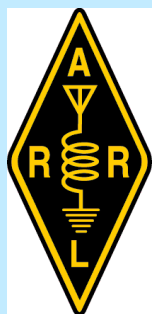
Last month the program covered ham radio operating awards. This month the program will be over the topic, "The Importance and the Art of QSLing"



Front row, Tom, KC9WOH, Gary KC0QLW, back row pictured is Tim, N9PUZ just a few of the members at the December club meeting.

Your ARRL Central Division contacts:**Director:** Dick Isely, W9GIG.

w9gig@arrl.org. 630-584-3510

Vice Director: Kermit Carlson,
W9XA, w9xa@arrl.org. 630-879-0983.**IL Section Manager:** Tom Ciciora,
KA9QPN, ka9qpn@arrl.org. 815-498-4929

Welcome New Members!

Congratulations to the following new Macoupin County ARC members: Dave Wiles, KC9WJM; Tom Turpin, KC9WOH; Mike Page and Jeff Naville, KC9WZO. Welcome to the K9MCE family and we're glad to have you aboard!

REMINDER: DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!

According to our club's bylaws if dues are not paid to the treasurer by 13 of January 2013 then the end of the world will occur. No, wait, that's a different article that has something to do with a Mayan calendar. Ah yes, if you don't get your dues in then your name will be dropped from the club roster and we would most certainly hate to have that happen.

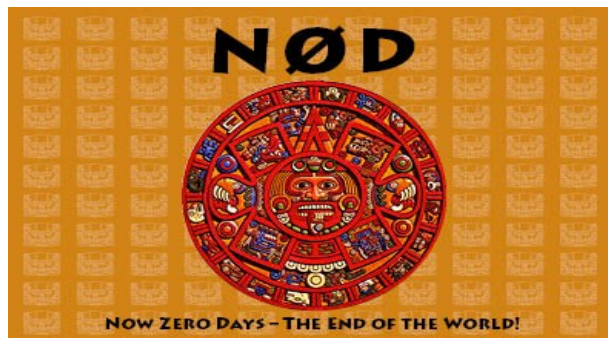
Dues are \$20.00/year for full, Family membership is \$25.00/year and senior/student membership is \$15.00/year. Make your check payable to Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club and please get it to club treasurer Jim Pitchford, N9LQF by the 13th.

So, if you haven't paid your dues and you've been meaning to do so, then why not be of good cheer and don't allow your club dues to go into arrears!

We Survived, Now Zero Days!

Evidently, the last day on the Mayan calendar is December 21, 2012. According to some, this meant the end of the world. Doomsday. Friday 21 December 2012 came and went and we are still here! In an attempt to playfully spoof the upcoming end of time some very crea-

tive ops put on a weeklong special event station with the call NOD. Now Zero Days. Their QSL card is shown on the right and your editor was able to put them in the log book on 15 and 20 meter phone. Your editor is also glad to report that he is still here!



ARES NET

ARES is an acronym for Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Any ham radio operator with even a slight interest in Emergency Communications is invited to participate in the ARES Net which occurs every Thursday evening at 9:00 pm on 147.480 MHz simplex. Bill Ogle, W9FJ is the net control operator.

Macoupin County Emergency Operations Director, Jim Pitchford, N9LQF appointed Bill as the Macoupin County ARES director. Bill runs a very professional yet relaxed net and he invites everyone to participate. Most of the time the net starts at 9:00 pm, but Bill cautions participants that due to the onset of an occasional memory lapse the net may sometimes begin ten minutes later!

The net is conducted on a simplex frequency primarily as a means to assist ops with testing their station's state of preparedness in the event a repeater is unavailable and emergency communications need to be relayed county-wide. All that is needed is a two meter capability call sign, ten minutes of time and a willingness to air your call sign when Bill asks for check-ins!



How to build and tune a Dipole the RIGHT way!

By Gary Huff, K9AUB

The simplest – and probably most effective – all-purpose antenna for the money and labor involved is probably the tried and trusted Dipole antenna. We have all see diagrams of the Dipole, and it couldn't be easier. Use $\frac{1}{2}$ wave length of wire (copper, steel, even old house wiring works fine!), and feed it in the center with a length of coax or twinlead. But what happens when you put up your dipole and discover it doesn't resonate anywhere close to what you calculated? Well...

The formula for a dipole antenna is: $468 / F \text{ (mHz)} = \text{length in feet.}$

Let's see how this works.... Say we want a dipole for 7.150 Mhz (7150 KHz), the center of the 40 meter band. Such an antenna will easily tune either phone or CW frequencies. So, we calculate:

$468 / 7.15 = 65.45$ feet. This works out to approximately 65 feet 6 in.

We make our length measurement from one end of the dipole (including the center insulator), to the end of the wire (where it terminates at the end insulators). $65' 6" / 2 = 32' 9"$ per side. If desired, we can use a 1:1 balun for a center insulator, which provides a nearly ideal match for a balanced antenna being fed with an unbalanced piece of coax. In theory, everything should work fine.

BUT... as we all know, sometimes the resonant frequency falls off from our desired design frequency. Why is that? Well, because the formula is for a piece of uninsulated wire in free space (no trees, fences, house wiring, etc., within a considerable distance of the antenna. (An antenna constructed of insulated wire will always work out to be slightly physically shorter than bare wire.) Additionally, the ground itself can mess up our resonance, and thus our calculations. Also, the antenna needs to be at FULL height for your measurements to be accurate. So, what do we do to correct this?

Well, we can't control the earth, trees or fences, so we have to adjust (tune) the antenna back to where we wanted it to be. For most amateurs, that's a cut-and-try operation, and sometimes we have to cut several times before we get the antenna to resonate where we want it to be. Since it's easier to CUT wire than to ADD wire, we usually want to make our antenna just a little long, and then trim for the desired frequency. But, how MUCH to cut?

Fortunately, there's an accurate and fast way of adjusting the antenna. We can use a handy chart and calculate a "cut factor."

1. With an SWR bridge (or an antenna analyzer), measure the **ACTUAL** resonant frequency of the antenna while at operating height.
2. Subtract the difference between the actual resonant frequency, and the desired frequency. If necessary, convert this number to KHz.
3. Multiply that difference (in KHz) by using these "fudge factors:"

80 Meters = 0.40

40 Meters = 0.11

20 Meters = 0.03

15 Meters = 0.01

10 Meters = 0.007

The resulting number is the approximate length of wire, in inches, that should be removed from the antenna. If the antenna is too short, don't worry, the factor still works, and will tell you how much wire you need to add, if necessary. Remember, this number is for the **ENTIRE** dipole, so you would cut (or add) $\frac{1}{2}$ this amount of wire to each end of the antenna. Then, re-check the SWR of the antenna. It **SHOULD** now resonate very close to where you wanted the antenna to be. And for a dipole, "close" is usually accurate enough. (Dipoles are usually very forgiving of small errors.)

Example: Design frequency = 7150 KHz
Actual Resonant Frequency = 6980 KHz
Frequency Difference = 170 KHz

Calculating, $170 \times 0.11 = 18.7$ inches

Now, divide that 18.7 inches / 2 = 9.4 inches per side

So, trim off 9.4 inches from each side and remeasure your SWR at your desired frequency. It **SHOULD** be **VERY** close to 7150 KHz, the desired (design) frequency!

Once you have your desired lengths, solder all your joints (**DON'T** use a blowtorch, which will anneal the wire, causing it to be brittle!! Use a heavy soldering gun or soldering iron!) Then, I like to paint my joints with Liquid Tape, available from any hardware store, to weatherproof the joints.

Your antenna, if properly constructed, should give you many years of reliable service, resonating at your desired frequency. Remember that antennas carrying ice will be detuned. They will return to the design frequency when the ice melts.

Rev. 07/18/2012

Winterfest 2013

January 26, 2013

50% LARGER SPACE THIS YEAR

Join The St. Louis & Suburban Radio Club Inc.
For Midwest's Largest Amateur Radio Hamfest
Gateway Convention Center — One Gateway Drive

Collinsville, Il. 62234

All tables sold out previous 6 years

Advance Admission Ticket \$6.00 (\$7.00 At Door)

Talk-in 146.760 (146.940 Back Up)

The St. Louis & Suburban Radio Club Inc.
P.O. Box 2233
St. Louis, MO. 63139

Jim Glasscock, WØFF-636-584-8888
Bill Coby, KBØMWG-314-504-1104
slsrc.org or bcoby@sbcglobal.net

ON FREQUENCY WITH GARRY WNUK, KCOQLW



America's third president, Thomas Jefferson, built his dream home Monticello in rural Virginia. Although Garry Wnuk, KCOQLW hasn't been president of the United States, he and his wife Angela have building a dream home in common with our third president. Gary and Angela moved into their home last August and it is located just northwest of Mt. Olive. Gary and Angela have plenty of acreage for antennas and KCOQLW is well on his way on creating his antenna farm. He just erected a Rohn 25G forty foot tower that supports a 2 meter and 70 cm yagi as well as a multiband dipole.

All hams are proud of their "shacks" and Garry is no exception. However, when KCOQLW invites you out to his "shack," he is really taking you out to his ham radio shack! About thirty yards or so from his home is an outbuilding that Garry built that houses the KCOQLW ham radio station. It is heated and it is air conditioned and it comes with all of the amenities of a nicely equipped, well, ham shack! In addition to his Harris HF radio and his mobile VHF/UHF radio, Garry has a very extensive technical library.

Presently licensed as a General class ham operator, Garry is working hard on his Extra Class license and he is planning to pass it at our January club meeting! Way to go Garry. We will be rooting for you and we will hopefully hear you on the HF bands sporting KCOQLW/AE this upcoming week until your updated FCC license arrives! KCOQLW was first licensed as a Technician, while living in Missouri, in 2003. However, Garry's interest in amateur radio began much earlier. His elmer, Walter, KC0CYC who then lived down the street, introduced him to the wonders of ham radio and the bug bit! Garry built a Heathkit SB102 and he was well on his way to earning a ticket. But then he became a father with his first child, Hillary and over the next six years two more children were born. Raising a family tends to put hobbies on the back burner. In the meanwhile, Garry worked as an electrician for McDonnell Douglas and Chrysler before recently retiring.

Now that Garry is retired, he is once again building (besides a QTH and a shack) and he is starting to work on an Elecraft K2 QRP HF transceiver kit! The K2 is one of the best radios that can be purchased and Garry will have the satisfaction of not only owning a very sensitive and selective HF rig, he'll know that he built it himself! In addition to building, KCOQLW enjoys DXing, and EmComm, but it is the camaraderie and the helpfulness associated with ham radio that Garry likes the best about our hobby. And speaking of camaraderie, Garry's wife Angela loves to cook. It is one of her passions and before Debbie, KC9ULA and I interviewed her husband, she made sure that we had dinner and I am here to tell you that she is a chef par excellence! Rumor has it that she'll be cook for our club's Field Day ops!

Budda.



To the left is Garry's shack and the picture on the right is an electrified



K9MCE CALENDAR

January 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 K9MCE CLUB MEETING	3 ARES NET 9:00 PM 147.480	4	5 ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP
6 ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP	7	8	9	10 ARES NET 9:00 PM 147.480	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 ARES NET 9:00 PM 147.480	18	19 ARRL JAN VHF CONTEST
20 ARRL JAN VHF COTEST	21	22	23	24 ARES NET 9:00 PM 147.480	25 CQ WW CW 160M CON- TEST	26 CQ WW CW 160M CON- TEST
27 CQ WW CW 160M CONTEST	28	29	30	31 ARES NET 9:00 PM 147.480		



K9MCE QSN Contact Information: Mark Kerhilikar, WD9HBF;
mkerhilikar@gmail.com; Ron Ochu, KO0Z; ronochu.sky@gmail.com

Macoupin County ARC, K9MCE meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm
on the second floor of the Macoupin County Sheriff Department

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

CLUB REPEATERS:

444.250 (103.5pl) Litchfield
146.865 (103.5 pl) Carlinville

LOCAL NETS: SUNDAYS

@ 9:00 PM, OKAW
VALLEY 444.250
REPEATER(103.5 PL);
MONDAYS @8:30 PM,
WA9RUM MEMORIAL
NET, 146.820 REPEATER;



K9MCE
MACOUPIN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS

Proposed MINUTES: from December 5th, 2012 Club Meeting

NOTE: Prior to the meeting being called to order, Jim Pitchford, N9LQF, presented a short video of his experiences working in NYC assisting in emergency communications with regards to Hurricane Sandy. Jim showed staging areas and general scenes from the disaster areas affected by the hurricane.

Meeting Called to Order: by Gary Huff K9AUB at 7:36 pm.

Pledge to the Flag: by Gary Huff K9AUB

<u>Roll Call of Officers:</u>	President	Gary Huff -K9AUB-present
	Vice President	Ron Ochu-KOØZ-present
	Secretary	Mark Kerhlikar -WD9HBF-present
	Treasurer	Jim Pitchford -N9LQF-present

<u>Directors:</u>	Isaac Pizzo	KC9NJW-absent
	Hugh Watson	AB9UB-present
	Mark Osborn	WA9SXX-absent
	Charlie Ritter	KB9OXH-present

Welcome New Members/Guest: Jeff Naville from Rockbridge, IL, guest and new member as of this evening.

Motion to Approve previous months Minutes:

November 7th, 2012 MCARC Meeting

Motioned by: Ron O. KOØZ

2nd by: Bill O. W9FJ

Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Report

Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF

No report, but please remember to renew your membership with our club..

Treasurer Report

Jim Pitchford, N9LQF

Current as of December 5th, 2012 \$1859.98, which is the same as last month

Central Illinois Repeater Fund: \$1810.00, which is the same as last month.

Motion to approve treasurer's report: Ron O. KØØZ

2nd by: Hugh W., AB9UB

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports**Hamfest**

At the November meeting a committee was formed consisting of Garry Wnuk KCØQLW, Ron Ochu KOØZ and Tim Coonrod KC9HQA and Travis (not licensed) to organize the idea of a regional hamfest and to discuss this possibility. Deciding on a location needed to be discussed also. Gary Huff said that Tom KC9WOH has offered Blackburn College as a possibility for the hamfest site. Jim P. N9LQF believes that we don't need to cooperate with other groups to do our hamfest. The hamfest already is split between two clubs and is split 90/10 when it comes to work and a 50/50 split when it comes to money. Bill O, Jim P Charlie R. are members of the Montgomery County Club. Tim N9PUZ suggested that if we did invite other clubs that the revenue should be split based on the participating club members' hours contributed toward the effort of the hamfest, so if two clubs are involved and there is dual membership, you would not count their hours at all. Jim P. N9LQF recommended to the president that we get an active hamfest committee and get people working to solve these issues. The committee was Tim Coonrod KC9HQA , Mark Osborn WA9SXX and new members should include the Garry W. KCØQLW, and Ron O. KOØZ. Ron O. suggested that these people meet and have a report at the February 2013 meeting.

Field Day

Chairman, Bill Emmons KC9OHE & CO-Chairman Tim Coonrod KC9HQA, Ron Ochu KOØZ,

Mark K. WD9HBF, Dave Wiles, KC9WJM

Ron O.KOØZ initiated a discussion about the possibility of having Field Day at Blackburn College which would be June 29-30th. Tom KC9WOH asked that we provide him with dates.

K9MCE Website Committee

Chairman, Isaac Pizzo KC9NJW

Isaac is absent but Mark K. WD9HBF was in contact with him and Isaac wanted to say that if anyone has any info to be posted on the website, please e-mail him, especially calendar items. Winterfest hamfest should be posted on the MCARC websites calendar.

VP of Emergency Communication

Chairman, Jim Pitchford N9LQF

Jim P. had no other information to share other than his presentation prior to the start of this meeting

Emergency Communication Report on ARES in Macoupin County

Bill Ogle W9FJ

- ARES HF net 3.905 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 Thursday Evening ARES Emergency Net 147.480 MHz Simplex at 9:00 pm.**
- **Illinois Traffic Net meets every evening at 3.905 MHz (?)**

Interstate SSB Net 3.985.00 Mhz

Old Business

Gary H. K9AUB announced that we have sent a thank you letter and a \$25.00 gift to Henry's Rabbit Ranch thanking him for allowing our club to use his facility for the special event station W6P back in September.

New Business

Jim P. N9LQF discussed the donation to the owner of the 444.250 MHz repeater tower where Skip's WS9V repeater is located. In the past we have provided a \$100.00 stipend to the owner to say "thank you". Because we have started the repeater fund last year and we are putting an additional \$5.00 in per member, it is not costing the club anything. Jim is suggesting a donation of \$200.00 to Mr. Tom Brinkman N9GGF and Gary Huff K9AUB read a pleasant letter addressed to Mr. Brinkman thanking him for allowing the MCARC to use his tower. A motion was made by Bill O. W9FJ seconded by Hugh AB9UB and passed unanimously by the membership to donate the \$200.00.

Jim P.N9LQF said we received a bill today for \$64.00 for our P.O. Box at the USPS in Carlinville, IL.

Motion to approve this amount made by Hugh AB9UB, seconded by Bill O. W9FJ and passed unanimously by the membership.

Jim P. N9LQF presented a picture of the proposed new logo that was conjured up by Ron O. KOØZ and Mark K. WD9HBF and finalized by Jim P.'s daughter of our club and asked for a motion to accept the new logo. The MCARC was originally chartered **AUGUST 4th, 1992** and this date will be placed on the new logo. Motion to approve the new logo made by Ed K KC9QHJ and seconded by John KD8KVO and passed unanimously by membership.

Ron O. KOØZ and Mark K. WD9HBF are in the process of creating a club newsletter "In the Log" and plan to come out with the first issue in January of 2013. Tim N9PUZ suggested that we check out KB6NU who distributes a column that can be printed free of charge to club editors.

Ron O. KOØZ reported on the results of W6P, the Route 66 special event station that our club participated in during the month of September at Henry's Rabbit Ranch, Staunton, IL. Of the 17 amateur radio stations that participated in this special event, W6P made the most QSO's numbering 4825. The next nearest was 3040. We operated lot of DX.

Ron O KOØZ reported on the special event station NØD, which stands for "NOW ZERO DAYS". They will operate December 20th and 21st and possibly if there is a December 22nd!!!!

Ron KOØZ also gave an abbreviated ARRL report that included: at least two MCARC members are now using LOTW. W1AW winter programming schedule now available online at the league website, there is now a \$10,000 scholarship fund at the league, microwave band input is wanted by the league, IRC's are being discontinued by the USPS. Skip will be a card checker per Isley.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting: 8:16 PM

Motion made by: Garry Wnuk KCØQLW 2nd By: Hugh AB9UB

Test session for Jeff Naville during the presentation of the program

Program

Presented by Ron Ochu "Contest Awards"

NEXT MEETING January 2nd, 2012

PROGRAM NEXT MONTH: "THE ART OF QSLING"

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY: "GPS AND GEOCACHING"

PROGRAM FOR MARCH: "THE ART OF MICROWAVING ACCORDING TO KOØZ"