



K9MCE Officers:

- President: Gary Huff, K9AUB
- Vice-President: Ron Ochu, KO0Z
- Secretary: Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF
- Treasurer: Jim Pitchford, N9LQF
- Trustee: Skip 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 3

March 2014

K9MCE Club Meeting on Wednesday 5 March

Mark your calendars now and plan on attending this month's meeting of the Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 5th. We meet 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 presentation immediately after the business meeting will feature "Out of the box ideas for hamfest improvement." A program that you will not want to miss.

The club also offers FCC license exams after the meeting. Call Bill, W9FJ for an appointment @ 217-854-8261



February's K9MCE meeting was held over the radio! Reno's is the place to be for good food and company before the club meeting!



K9MCE Meeting held over WS9V Repeater— A Club First!

As a result of a six-inch snow-fall, icy roads and below zero temperatures, K9MCE club officers decided that discretion is the better part of valor and opted to hold the February club meeting over the WS9V repeater which was a club first! It wasn't sure as to how well conducting club business over a repeater would work, but in the

interest of experimentation, the club decided to give it a try.

Club vice-president, Ron Ochu, KO0Z presided over the club meeting which lasted about 25 minutes over the repeater. There were a total of fifteen club member check-ins which is about the normal size of a K9MCE monthly club meeting.

Club minutes, treasurer's report were approved and committee reports were given. The club by-law change to allow lifetime membership passed by acclamation. Isaac, KC9NJW was able to attend the meeting via Echo-link!

To the best of our knowledge this arrangement worked out well!

From The Desk of The Secretary



By WD9HBF Mark Kerhlikar

This winter has been exciting for me for several reasons. One, I enjoy training and running my recreational sled dog team and when I'm not outside taking care of them, I have been able to spend lots of time in the shack on the radio. And speaking of the shack, I have been able to put together the "new look" to my radio room including an L shape counter top which holds all of my radios. I'm putting off building the drawers and cabinets until warmer days arrive!

During some of those long winter days I was able to get started on chasing DX stations, something as a young ham I was unable to do. I've also set a goal to work every WIAW portable station. These portable stations are part of the ARRL Centennial QSO Party. According to the January 2014 issue of QST "...a portable WIAW will be on the air from every state at least twice." In addition to all states, some US Territories will also be activated. The league recently announced that Guantanamo Bay

will be activated as WIAW/KG4 from February 26 through March 4. So you if you haven't achieved your WAS award, this would be a great opportunity to do so and receive a special WIAW WAS certificate and plaque. I have challenged myself to work these portable stations on CW and SSB. The CW operators are quite fast but that has challenged me to raise my code copying abilities. And that has enabled me to work some DX using CW. For more info visit www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party.

February Club Minutes

MINUTES

K9MCE ARC MEETING

February 5, 2014

Please note that this meeting was conducted on the WS9V repeater due to inclement weather conditions. The meeting was run by Vice President Ron O.

Ron O. started the meeting by calling QST, QST, calling the Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club

Meeting to order on the WS9V repeater on 444.250 MHz

Meeting Called to Order (on the WS9V repeater):

Ron asked for club officers to check in first:

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

Ron asked the directors to check in:

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

Ron asked for all other members and guests to check in:

Welcome New Members/Guest: KG7DBJ Scott Reeves Walt's son.

Roll Call of Members: Charlie KB9OXH, Bill O W9FJ, Lou B KC9YFU, Skip R WS9V/mobile,
Walt R KB9ENT, Jim WM9R, Paul KC9YCP, Jeff N KC9WZO,
Tom T KC9WOH.

Agenda Items:

Motion from last month's meeting to change by-laws that would reflect a lifetime membership of \$200. (Motion was published in FEB edition of

MOTION TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES:

January 5th, 2014, MCARC Club Meeting

Ron O asked for motion to accept the JAN MCARC minutes

Motioned by: Tim C KC9HQA 2nd by: Skip WS9V/mobile

Ron O asked if anyone opposes the minute, there was no opposition to the minutes so the minutes are accepted as presented.

On agenda is the change to the By-Laws creating a lifetime membership with a one-time fee of \$200.

Ron O asked if there were any opposition to this By-Law change

N9LQF made a motion to accept the By-Law change and it was seconded by WS9V/mobile.

With no opposition the motion carried.

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. All amateurs, not just Macoupin County members, are encouraged to check-in.

Treasurer Report: Jim Pitchford N9LQF

Current as of Feb 5, 2014 \$1966.13

Repeater fund \$ 1100.00

Motion to approve the Treasure Report

Motion made by Lou B KC9YFU and seconded by Tim C.KC9HQA

Motion passed with no opposition to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hamfest: Chairman, Tim Coonrod KC9HQA CO-Chairman Mark Osborn WA9SXX, Garry Wnuk AC9FF, Ron Ochu KOØZ
Any ideas or suggestions or anything we can do new let Tim know by next meeting or call him. Ron O ran off flyers and passed them out at WINTERFEST.

Ron O also suggested to making a 5 element beam as a money maker at the hamfest

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

Any suggestions, ideas or comments let Tim know.

N9LQF has contacted BSA and CAMP BUNN is available to us and they were interested in us doing a one day ham class for scouts and we could make it a big event for the scouts.

Mark K asked if an extra day would be needed, and Jim P said we could use instructors out of the club and teach the class and make it a Saturday only event or have them come back Sunday and take the test then. There is some flexibility as far as how it is to be organized.

Mark K would like to be involved with this project along with Ron O and Jim P

K9MCE Website Committee: Chairman, Isaac Pizzo KC9NJW

ECHOLINK connection dropped, so no report

VP of Emergency Communication: Chairman, Jim Pitchford N9LQF

Jim P said he had nothing to report.

Skip WS9V added that he wants to let everyone know that 444.250 is not working as well as it use to because of an antenna or coax situation and as soon as the weather breaks he will repair it.

He suggested using high power and outdoor antenna.

Ron O passed on thanks to Jim P for keepin on top of the dust storms om 108 an making sure generators work.

Emergency Communication Report on ARES in Macoupin County:
Chairman, Bill Ogle W9FJ

Nothing to report but please check in every Thursday evening at 9:00 PM

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.

Ron O. encouraged everyone to take a turn at the MCARC THURSDAY evening net. A schedule can be made and it's important for all of us to be able to have the experience in running a net. Contact Mark K WD9HBF.

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 N9LQF announced a list of people whose membership status has lapsed and we would love to have these people as members.

KB9KZU

AC9FF

KC9WJM

KC9OHF

K9RGA

Mike Wilcoxson, Oren Wilcoxson

Mike Page

Mike Graham

New Business:

No new business

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

Motion to Adjourn Meeting @7:27PM

Motion made by: Charlie KB9OXH 2nd by: Tim KC9HQA

Mark K WD9HBF announced the next meeting date and time.

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5th, 2013



Should We Update Our Bylaws?

As reported in the last issue of K9MCE QSN our By-laws are in need of revision. The current dues structure is out of date and according to the By-laws the club's board of directors is required to meet twice a year.

Obviously, the directors haven't met in quite some time. Should that section of the By-laws be amended?

These are questions that a committee should address and then present any recommended changes to the club mem-

bership.

President Gary, K9AUB can appoint a committee or the membership could request one be formed. The important criteria here is that committee members should be willing to volunteer a little of their time for the betterment of our club.



“Either the antenna or its jumper is causing high SWR”

K9MCE club trustee, Skip Riba - WS9V would like to remind users of the 444.250 repeater to use high power while transmitting because the repeater's normal coverage area is diminished due to either antenna or jumper problems. There's a high SWR on the repeater feed-line and until the weather breaks and it is safe to climb the tower, repeater users will have to be patient.

In the meantime, Skip ordered

a new antenna to replace the old one and when the weather breaks, he'll be ready to install it.



WS9V/R site near Litchfield, IL.



Skip, WS9V and his repeater

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.

Macoupin County is NWS StormReady!

Kudos to Jim Pitchford, K9MCE Macoupin County Emergency Management Director and to Jim Kramper, N0LSX National Weather Service meteorologist from the St. Louis office for their excellent efforts to make Macoupin County a NWS StormReady County!

To be registered as a Storm-Ready County is no small undertaking. What does it mean to be designated as Storm-Ready County? According to the NWS website: "NWS designed StormReady to help

communities better prepare for and mitigate effects of extreme weather-related events. Storm-Ready also helps establish a commitment to creating an infrastructure and systems that will save lives and protect property. Receiving Storm-Ready recognition does not mean that a community is storm proof, but StormReady communities will be better prepared when severe weather strikes."

To be designated a NWS StormReady county a number

of criteria need to be met, such as: Establishing a 24 hour warning point and Emergency Operations Center, have multiple ways to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public, create a system that monitors local weather conditions, promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars and to develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.



ARES Field Resources Manual copyright 2005-2012 Review



The ARRL offers the ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Field Resources Manual as one of its many publications dedicated to the advancement of Amateur Radio and emergency communications preparedness. An earlier PDF

version (August 2005) is available at this URL: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ARESFieldResourcesManual.pdf>

A printed version is available from the League's bookstore. It is 92 pages and it is bounded by a heavy duty spiral ring. The ARRL bookstore order number is 5439 and its price is \$12.95 plus shipping.

A copy of the manual will be brought to the next club meet-

ing for anyone that is interested. It is well done and it is a good resource. On the manual's cover there is a subtitle, "A Quick Trainer and Resource Guide for the Emergency Communicator." It is an easy read and there's a lot of good information ranging from , First Things First, NTS, RACES, ARES, Hazardous materials , Basic Operating Principles, Message Formats and Wilderness Protocols.

**"ARES Field
Resources
Manual - A
Quick Trainer
and Resource
Guide for the
Emergency
Communicator"**

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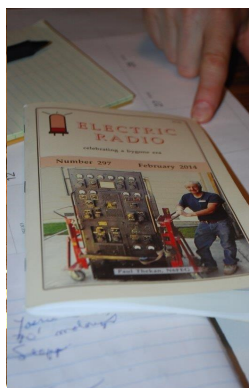
KC9HQA's dual band VHF/UHF vertical high above his Carlinville QTH.

On Frequency With Tim Coonrod, KC9HQA



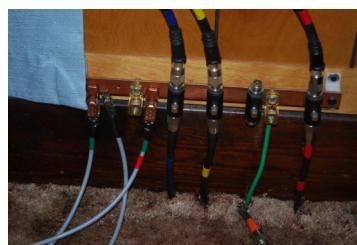
“When working on tube equipment an auto-transformer and a Variac are must haves for the bench.”

Nestled in the southeast quadrant of residential Carlinville is the QTH of Tim Coonrod, KC9HQA. Tim loves Carlinville, in fact he is an alderman on the city council and he owns and maintains his business, Coonrod Electric on the opposite side of town near the Amtrak station. KC9HQA makes his living as an electrician and he has some very shocking tales to tell about what he's seen some of his customers do, or rather it would be better to write what some of his customers shouldn't have done. For example, at a recent club meeting Tim brought in a sample of household wiring that a customer installed in his garage that was “riddled with staples” to the wall and the customer was at a loss as to why his circuit breaker kept tripping, hence requiring Coonrod Electric to come out to fix the problem! Tim got interested in electronics while attending Carlinville High School and at the age of 15 he started to learn the electrician's trade. After graduating from high school in 1979, Tim attended John Wood Community College (Quincy Technical School) in Quincy Illinois. He's also taken electronics course work at Lewis and Clark Community College which, as it turns out, is right up Tim's alley because he loves to fiddle with tube radios!



Tim enjoys reading Electric Radio magazine.

Tim was quick to point beginners make when simply plug the radio into More often than not, an the ears, soon followed from the now ruined high tronics. A much better tion transformer and a the radio to be powered duced to 20 ACV and at a time every couple of hours so as to give the dried out filter capacitors a chance to “rejuvenate.” Tim is all about electrical safety and he advises that every ham who likes to tinker should scour the hamfests for isolation and Variac at a hamfest for be found which will help work. KC9HQA stresses tem ground not only at bench. Tim pointed out Earth grounding, but RF outside his “radio shack” bus bar inside his shack



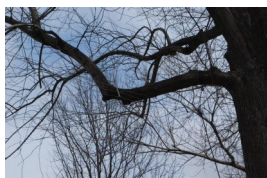
out that one of the biggest mistakes working on older, tube type gear is to the electric socket and to turn it on. unexpected and unpleasant pop greets by the acrid smell of burnt dielectric voltage capacitors and associated elec- and safer approach is to have an isola- Variac transformer plugged plugged into up. That way the 110 ACV can be re- then gradually brought up 10 to 20 volts working on older, tube type gear is to the electric socket and to turn it on. unexpected and unpleasant pop greets by the acrid smell of burnt dielectric voltage capacitors and associated elec- and safer approach is to have an isola- Variac transformer plugged plugged into up. That way the 110 ACV can be re- then gradually brought up 10 to 20 volts Tim picked up a only \$10.00! So there are good deals to to make a workbench a safer place to the importance of having a good sys- the workbench, but also the radio that hams not only need to be aware of grounding as well. That is why just he has an 8' ground rod connected to a where all of his grounding cables and

Notice the common point bus bar and polyphasers

On Frequency With Continued...

coax cables are tied together at one common ground point. Tim also uses Polyphasers gas discharge connectors in his coax lines which are connected to the same common grounding buss.

And speaking of coax, KC9HQA's coax, at one end, is connected to a Yaesu FT 2000 and a Kenwood TS 2000 X. Tim is capable of going from DC to Daylight! On the other end of his coax he has a dual band VHF/UHF vertical and an Alpha Delta multi-band dipole antenna in his backyard. Tim also has a



The Alpha Delta is just below the tree.



Tim's 3 element 2 meter yagi.

2 meter yagi side mounted off of one of his TV tower legs next to his house. Tim greatly enjoys ham radio and his favorite band to operate is 80 meters. He loves to rag chew and he can be found on 3.854 MHz.

KC9HQA isn't an award chaser. He's not much interested in DXCC or WAS at this moment, but he loves to meet people over the air. One of his most memorable QSOs, outside of chatting with a ham in Australia, was when he was able to render assistance to a fellow ham who wasn't sure how to properly operate his generator. Evidently local power had failed in his area and he was freezing and he was in desperate need to get his generator up and running. Tim was able to give him the answers that he needed over the air and the man was able to get his heat going!

Helping one another out is what attracts Tim to ham radio. He started off in radio listening to shortwave and to CB radio and before long he met Skip, WS9V who got Tim interested in ham radio. Around the time, the Macoupin County ARC was formed and everyone met in the Carlinville Post Office basement back then in the 1990s. A Technician class was formed and Tim along with Jim, N9LQF and some other club members took the class and they were soon licensed. In 2005 KC9HQA wanted to get on more frequencies so he upgraded to General class. Since helping one another out is one of Tim's major interests and the Macoupin County ARC is also all about helping one another out, K9MCE is the place to be for Tim!

KC9HQA is very active in the club. He serves as the club's Hamfest chairman as well as Field Day chairman. The Friday evening before hamfest Saturday, Tim can be found stringing up loud speakers and wiring to the PA used at the hamfest. He's served as the club president and he is willing to put on a program over generators at the May club meeting! Tim finds the club to be made up with many interesting and talented individuals. He'd like to see the club offer basic electronics and licensing classes.



Most hams have a work bench, but Tim has two work benches to service his electronic projects in addition to his radio bench upstairs!



KC9HQA's home-brewed fused power distribution panel for working on radio equipment. Notice the variac on the left for safely varying volt-

"Helping one another is fine ham radio tradition and one which Tim, KC9HQA deeply values."



Tim's all-in-one isolation transformer and variac in one convenient box.

As part of the ARRL Centennial operations celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the ARRL, WIAW WAS is in full operation. It is possible to earn the Worked All States Award (WAS) by working WIAW/portable. Every week starting on Wednesday, two new states operate WIAW. Here is a list of the operations which you can also download via the ARRL website at http://www.arrl.org/files/file/On%20the%20Air/WIAW_2014_sked.pdf. If you missed the operation so far, not to worry, since the schedule starts all over again mid-year. A number of K9MCE members are working towards their WIAW WAS. Good luck!

Week	State	Host Callsign	Host Name	Territory Host
1/1/2014	North Carolina	N4AF	PVRC/NC	
1/1/2014	West Virginia	K8MN	Dave Heil	
1/8/2014	Utah	K7CO	Jon Utley	
1/8/2014	South Carolina	AA4V	CDXA	
1/15/2014	Nebraska	K0HA	Bill Hohnstein	
1/15/2014	Delaware	N8NA #1	Karl Grunewald	
1/22/2014	New York	W2LK	Les Kalmus	
1/22/2014	Oklahoma	K5CM	Connie Marshall	
1/29/2014	Minnesota	W0AA	MWA/NLRS	
1/29/2014	Texas	N1XS	TDXS	
2/5/2014	Georgia	N4PN	GCG	
2/5/2014	Hawaii	KH6LC # 2	Lloyd Cabral	
2/12/2014	California	K6NA	SCCC	
2/12/2014	Wisconsin	WE9V	SMC WI	
2/19/2014	Michigan	AA8R	SMC MI	
2/19/2014	Florida	N8PR	Pete Rimmel	
2/26/2014	Washington	K7RL	WWDXC	
2/26/2014	Kansas	K0BJ	Bruce Frahm	
3/5/2014	Idaho	K7ZO	Scott Tuthill	
3/5/2014	Kentucky	N4GN	KCG	
3/12/2014	Arizona	AA7A # 1	CADXA	
3/12/2014	Ohio	N8BJQ	Steve Bolia	
3/19/2014	Tennessee	K1GU # 1	TCG	KH2 Group
3/19/2014	New Mexico	AA5B	Bruce Draper	
3/26/2014	Iowa	NR0X	Jason Joens	
3/26/2014	Vermont	W1SJ	Mitch Stern	
4/2/2014	Pennsylvania	K3WW/AA3B	Charlie Fulp	
4/2/2014	Oregon	W7YAQ	CODXC	
4/9/2014	Massachusetts	K1TTT	Dave Robbins	
4/9/2014	Virginia	K4EU/K1SE	PVRC/VA	
4/16/2014	Mississippi	N4OGW	Tor Clay	
4/16/2014	North Dakota	W0ND	Lynn Nelson	
4/23/2014	New Jersey	W2GD	FRC-SJDXA	
4/23/2014	New Hampshire	WA1Z	Bob Raymond	
4/30/2014	Connecticut	K1DM/W1AN	Mike McKaughan	
4/30/2014	Nevada	W7RN # 1	CMS	
5/7/2014	Utah	K7CO	UDXA	
5/7/2014	Nebraska	K0HA # 2	Bill Hohnstein	
5/14/2014	South Dakota	WD0T	Todd Dravland	
5/14/2014				
5/21/2014	New York	K2CS/K2DB	RDXA	
5/21/2014	Colorado	K8ZTT	MHDXA # 1	
5/28/2014	Missouri	N0SS	Mid-MO ARC	
5/28/2014	Wyoming	WY7FD # 1	Dwayne Allen	
6/4/2014	Alabama	K4TD	ACG	
6/4/2014	Louisiana	K5ER	LCC # 1	

6/11/2014	Arkansas	W5ZN	Team Zilla	
6/11/2014	Minnesota	W0AA	MWA/NLRS	
6/18/2014	Alaska	KL7RA	AK-Contesters	
6/18/2014	Montana	KE7X	Fred Cady	
6/25/2014	Illinois	K9CT	Craig Thompson	
6/25/2014	Maryland	W3LPL	Frank Donovan	
7/2/2014	Wisconsin	W0AIH/KB9S	Paul Bittner	DC -- KE3X
7/2/2014	North Dakota	W0ND # 2	Lynn Nelson	
7/9/2014	Not Available	WRTC	WRTC	
7/9/2014	Not Available	WRTC	WRTC	
7/16/2014	Colorado	K8ZTT	MHDXA # 2	
7/16/2014	South Carolina	W4OC	Don Crain	
7/23/2014	Indiana	AJ9C/KE9I	SMC IN	
7/23/2014	Rhode Island	W1XX	CTRI # 2	
7/30/2014	South Dakota	W0SD	Ed Gray	
7/30/2014	Kentucky	KE4KY	Glenn Petri	
8/6/2014	Vermont	K2LE	Andy Bodony	
8/6/2014	New Jersey	N2MM	Carol Richards	
8/13/2014	Oklahoma	W5CU	EARS	
8/13/2014	Maryland	W3LPL # 2	PVRC MD	
8/20/2014	Ohio	K8MR	MRRC	
8/20/2014	Hawaii	KH6LC	Lloyd Cabral	
8/27/2014	Arizona	AA7A #2	CADXA	
8/27/2014	Maine	K1DG # 1	Doug Grant	
9/3/2014	Tennessee	K1GU # 2	TCG	
9/3/2014	Oregon	N7OU	WVDXC	
9/10/2014	Texas	K5OT/K5TR	Larry Hammel	
9/10/2014	New Hampshire	WC1M	Dick Green	
9/17/2014	North Carolina	N4YDU	Nate Moreschi	
9/17/2014	Connecticut	KB1H	Barnstormers	
9/24/2014	New Mexico	N2IC	Steve London	
9/24/2014	Idaho	K7ZO # 2	Scott Tuthill	
10/1/2014	Alaska	KL7RA	North Pole CG	
10/1/2014	California	W1SRD	NCCC	
10/8/2014	Virginia	K4ZW/K4GMH	PVRC VA	
10/8/2014	Missouri	N0AX	Ward Silver	
10/15/2014	Michigan	K8CC	Mad River	
10/15/2014	Alabama	K4TD # 2	ACG	
10/22/2014	Nevada	W7RN #2	CMS	
10/22/2014	West Virginia	W8HC	Hal Turley	
10/29/2014	Wyoming	WY7FD	Dwayne Allen	VI -- NP2X/K9VV
10/29/2014	Massachusetts	W1EBI	George Harlem	
11/5/2014	Washington	KB7HDX	Mark Tharp	
11/5/2014	Kansas	K0RU	Rob Underwood	
11/12/2014	Rhode Island	W1XX	John Lindholm	
11/12/2014	Mississippi	N4OGW # 2	Tor Clay	
11/19/2014	Florida	K1TO	FCG	

11/19/2014	Arkansas	K5UZ	David Norris	
11/26/2014	Delaware	N8NA #2	Karl Grunewald	
11/26/2014	Louisiana	W5WZ	LCC # 2	
12/3/2014	Illinois	WB9Z	Jerry Rosalius	
12/3/2014	Maine	K1DG # 2	Doug Grant	
12/10/2014	Indiana	K9NW	Mike Tessmer	
12/10/2014	Montana	K7BG	Matt Trott	
12/17/2014				
12/17/2014	Georgia	WW4LL	Fred Dennin	
12/24/2014	Pennsylvania	K3LR	Team K3LR	
12/24/2014	Iowa	W0GJ	Glenn Johnson	

The WIAW stations are on the air every day and on various modes and bands. A good website to see postings is the DX Summit at <http://www.dxsummit.fi/>. This is a great site to see what is DX is on the air, who is hearing the DX and on what frequency. I've noticed that DX stations are interested in working WIAW and there are postings on The DX Summit notifying everyone that a station is on the air. The website is free and if you don't see WIAW listed on the screen, there is a menu bar across the top of the screen. Locate and click on Search and then enter the call sign that you are interested in seeing if anyone has posted it.

The ARRL is thinking about offering a special certificate and plaque for WIAW WAS. Do keep in mind that working W100AW will not count for CT. You will need to work WIAW/I when it is scheduled to be on the air.

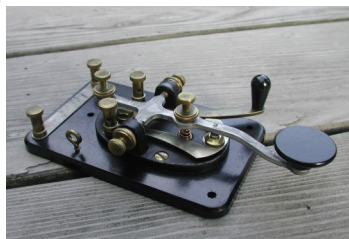
Good hunting!



Views of ARRL HQ Station WIAW in Newington, CT

Free Windows Morse Code Programs!

Are you thinking about learning Morse code and are you looking for a free Morse code tutorial program? Well you just may be in luck! In the November/December 2013 issue of the ARRL Contest Journal in the "The Little Pistols Page" column on page 28, the editor Mike Goldstein, VE3GFN pointed out a free program entitled, Learning CW Online (LCWO). LCWO is freeware software, but you do need to register on line for it which does not cost you a cent. The URL is <http://lcwo.net>



Another freeware software package for your computer is "Just Learn Morse Code." This program is also worth checking out. Its URL is <http://www.justlearnmorsecode.com/>. This program uses the Koch method along with Farnsworth timing. The website will tell you more about these methods, but basically the Koch method teaches you two characters and you must correctly copy them 90% of the time before adding more characters at a particular speed. Farnsworth timing is the spacing between characters. Characters are sent at the same speed as at higher speeds, while extra spacing is inserted between characters and words to slow the transmission down.

NorthMac Middle School Receives ARRL Education Grant Station!

NorthMac Middle School special education teacher, Debbie Ochu, KC9ULA announced that the ARRL Education Grant ham radio station arrived in time for Valentine's Day! Thanks to the generosity of donors to the ARRL's Education Department, NorthMac Middle School received a brand new Yaesu FT897 100 watt, all mode, 160 meter to 70 cm transceiver, an Astron 35 amp power supply, LMR-400 coax with connectors, a Cushcraft Dual-band Ringo Ranger VHF/UHF vertical and a Cushcraft 14AVQ HF vertical (10-40 meters). Soon her students will be QRV from NorthMac Middle School in Girard!



NorthMac Middle School Principal, Mr. Dennis McMillin is making an upstairs classroom available for the ham radio equipment. This classroom has access to the roof where the antennas will be installed. Macoupin County ARC, K9MCE was instrumental in Debbie Ochu getting the grant by agreeing to offer mentoring and any needed assistance. As soon as the weather warms up and it's safe to venture out onto the roof an antenna party will be held. In the meantime, middle school ComTech club members will gain valuable skills learning how to assemble and tune the Ringo Ranger and 14 AVQ antennas as well as the functions of all the knobs on the radios!

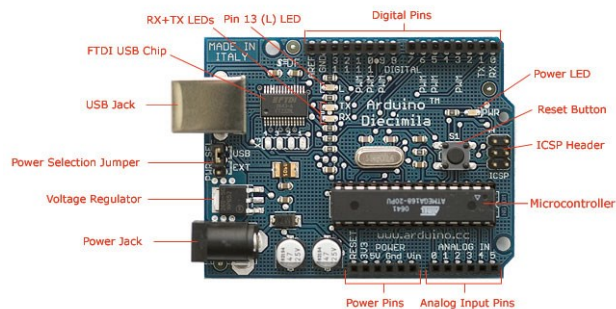
A Very Neat DIY Capacitance Project!

A big THANK YOU to Tim,

N9PUZ for sending the URL for this project! If you haven't starting exploring the Arduino computer, you really need to do so! This is an inexpensive board that you can program to do many ham applications.

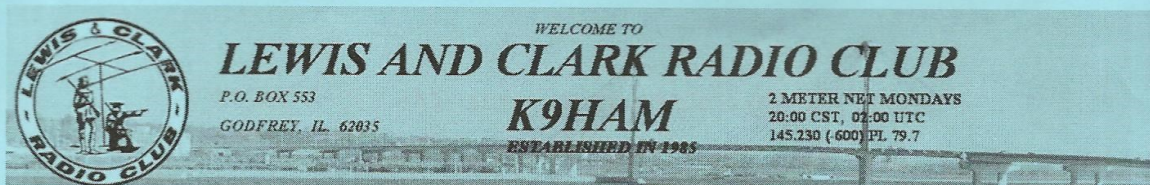
I know a few of you have been learning and experimenting with the Arduino single board computers. Here is a link to an interesting article where the author shows how to use one to measure capacitance...

<http://wordpress.codewrite.co.uk/pic/2014/01/21/cap-meter-with-arduino-uno/>



Photograph by SparkFun Electronics. Used under the Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike 3.0 license.





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

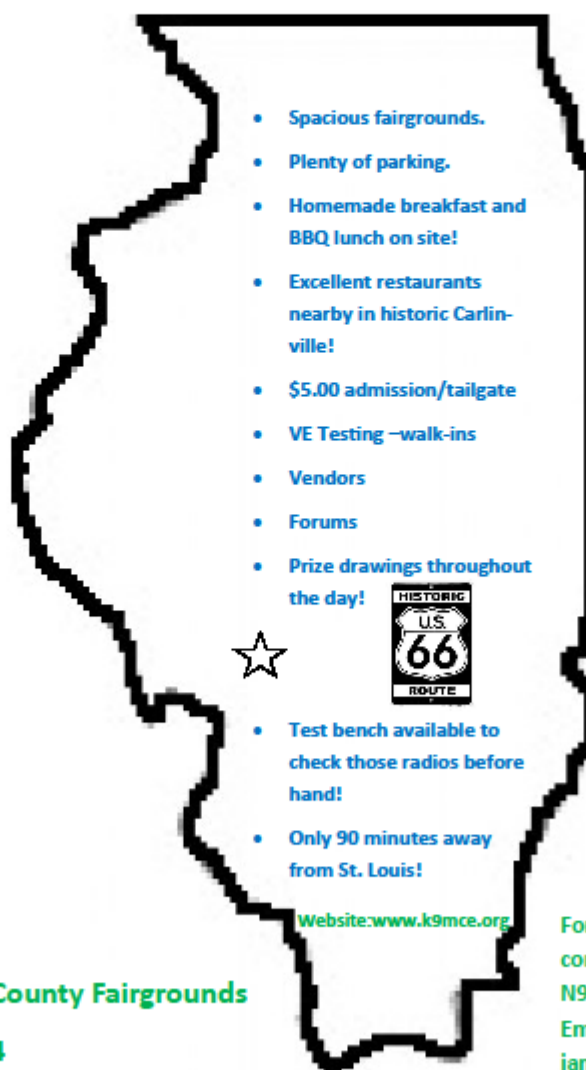
WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS HAMFEST

SATURDAY AUGUST 2, 2014

7:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

K9MCE-W9BXR

TALK - IN 444.250 (103.5 PL) WS9V/R



Website: www.k9mce.org

Macoupin County Fairgrounds

21368 Rte 4

Carlinville, IL 62626

For more information
contact Jim Pitchford,
N9LQF 217-854-3352.

Email:
james@royell.org

GPS COORDINATES: N 39.18.455, W 89.52.671

Illinois ARRL Section Manager News

By Tom Ciciora — KA9QPN



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

From the top...

**The FT5ZM Amsterdam Island exercise has completed, and those folks are headed home. I don't recall having ever heard such a firestorm of complaints over malicious interference to the stations involved. And, if I live to be 100, I'll never understand the mentality that inspires such behavior. Hopefully, those of you who needed that entity were able to get it despite the intramurals.

=====

**Honest: spring is coming.

=====

**I was at the WCRA Hamfest last month. It turned out to be a scheduling disaster for me, as I needed to depart on a business trip later that morning. So I was unable to give the event my full and usual attention, and that bothered me. I enjoy seeing and speaking to you all in person, and I'm just as cabin fevered as the next guy. These messes don't occur often, but when they do, they are legendary.

Get informed...

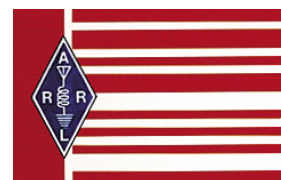
**I get requests occasionally for a recommendation to take the final assessment for EC-016. I'm always happy to do so. However, I don't always know who's asking very well. So, please don't be offended if I ask what you've been doing in EmComm and where you've been doing it. A couple of lines are sufficient, and it helps me know who I'm recommending.

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**Here's an interesting one: look for W1AW/KG4 from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba later on this month. It's part of the Centennial QSO Party and will happen from 26 February through 4 March. Certainly unique, if not rare.

=====

**Radio Shack has announced its intention to close 500 stores across the country. It comes as no surprise to those of us that frequented the stores for years. R/S has gone from the last of the general electronics retailers to a run at being a niche computer seller to a glorified cellphone store. It used to be a place to get that last part for a project that you were building on a Sunday afternoon and go-to place for a scanner, entry level shortwave radio or even a ham rig for a short time. It's a shame, but I confess that I rarely go into R/S any more, and then only to cruise the bargain bin. Most everything of consequence gets purchased online or off the hamfest tables. In my desk drawer at work, there is an old R/S 2m HT: the little one that was about 300mW output and the ham radio equivalent of a .22 derringer. It's plenty good for listening to the local SKYWARN net (the repeater is line-of-sight from work). It was also woefully overpriced when it was new, as is most of their stuff.



Around the Section...

**I did not know this...and I'm a member. The Fox River RL sponsors the Worked All Illinois Counties Award. This is no mean trick, as there are some counties in the southern portion of the state whose count of Amateurs via the databases run only to double digits. Back out the inactives and SKs, and you've got a real challenge on your hands. Some of these might only be gotten via a dedicated rover effort. In any case: an effort of which I was not aware. Worth a look.

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**From the Peoria Area ARC "Bandbits" and Fritz Bock WD9FMB: "PAARC participated in the annual Winter Field Day on January 25-26 at the Old Farm Pavilion adjacent to Wildlife Prairie Park. 14 ham radio operators attended the 24 hour contest. Although the total number of contacts were down slightly over last year, the consumption of chili, chicken noodle soup and ham and beans was up 37% with corn bread consumption up a whopping 42 %. The home cooked Sunday morning breakfast was great. The increase in food intake may have contributed to the slightly lower score. Thanks to KC0TOT, KD0EKA, K9DRF, K9CEW, W9WTF, KB9VQH, KC9QYA, N9ZBE, KC9SZC, KA4DEB, W9WGN, NM0O, N9SJZ for your participation!"

=====

**The bottom feeders are everywhere, and I'm afraid that we're not immune. If you made a purchase from Amateur Electronic Supply between 9 January and 23 January via credit/debit card, check your statement. AES reports that "consumer information" from orders during that period had been "compromised". Not a lot else is known here as to point of attack or how many customers were involved.



Anyone Interested in a Club Homebrew Night?



The idea of having a club homebrew night has been brought up before and there's been some interest, but is the club really serious about putting on a club homebrew night?

A few club members are working on projects now and why not bring them to a club meeting to show off your ham radio work of art? Perhaps it is an antenna project and it is already up in the air making "boat loads" of DX contacts. Why not bring pictures of your fabulous skyhook!

All the club needs is to set a date for homebrew night and to come up with a few rules and categories such as antennas/feedlines, transmitter/receiver, biggest kluge, and ham shack accessories such as go kits, etc. Maybe the club could even offer a few prizes in each category.

This night could become a cherished club tradition that would certainly be a club night that everyone would look forward to seeing and it would give some people "sitting on

the fence" a little boost to make some time to "getting 'er done!"

Perhaps a few club members could be appointed as a committee with the expressed purpose of setting a date, coming up with some rules and maybe even some prizes.

The best part of all is that besides building a worthwhile ham radio project, all entries and winners will get published in this newsletter and receive incalculable fame and everyone's undying gratitude!

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

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

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

March 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1 ARRL SSB DX Contest
2 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	3 W9EVY Memo- rial Net @ 8:30 pm on 146.820	4	5 K9MCE CLUB MEETING, 7:00 PM. Pre-meeting dinner – Reno's Pizza at 5:00 pm.	6 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	7	8
9 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	10 W9EVY Memorial Net @ 8:30 pm on 146.820	11	12	13 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	14	15
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**We're on the
web!
www.k9mce.org**

IL NOAA NWS Weather 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

Nets