



K9MCE QSN

K9MCE Officers:

- President: Mark Lewis, KD9EFO
- Vice-President: John Nalezty, KD8KVO
- Secretary: Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF
- Treasurer: Tim Coonrod, KC9HQA
- Trustee: Skp Riba, WS9V
- **Board of Directors:**
- Mark Osborn, WA9SXX
- Bill Ogle, W9FJ
- Jim Pitchford, N9LOF
- Ron Ochu, KO0Z
- Webmaster: Isaac Pizzo, WX9SRV

Macoupin County ARC
 129 East First Street
 PO Box 253
 Carlinville, IL 62626-0253

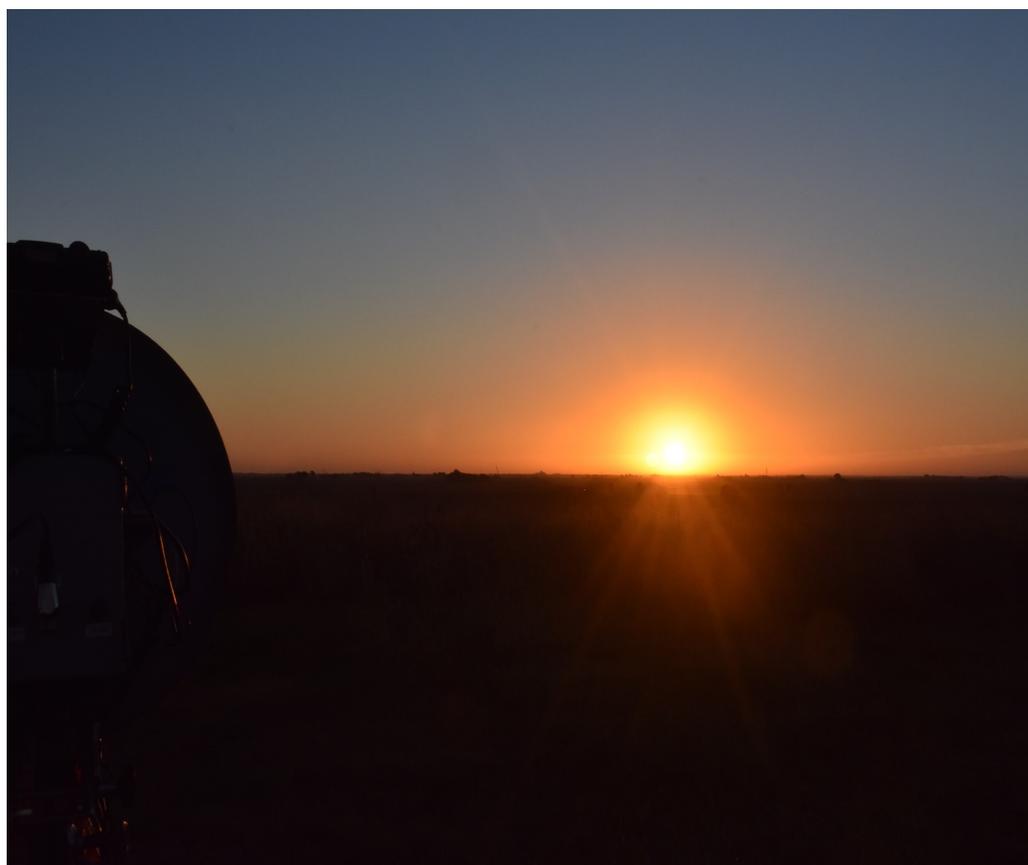
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Volume 6, Issue 11

November 2018

K9MCE Club Meeting on Wednesday 7 November Happy Thanksgiving!



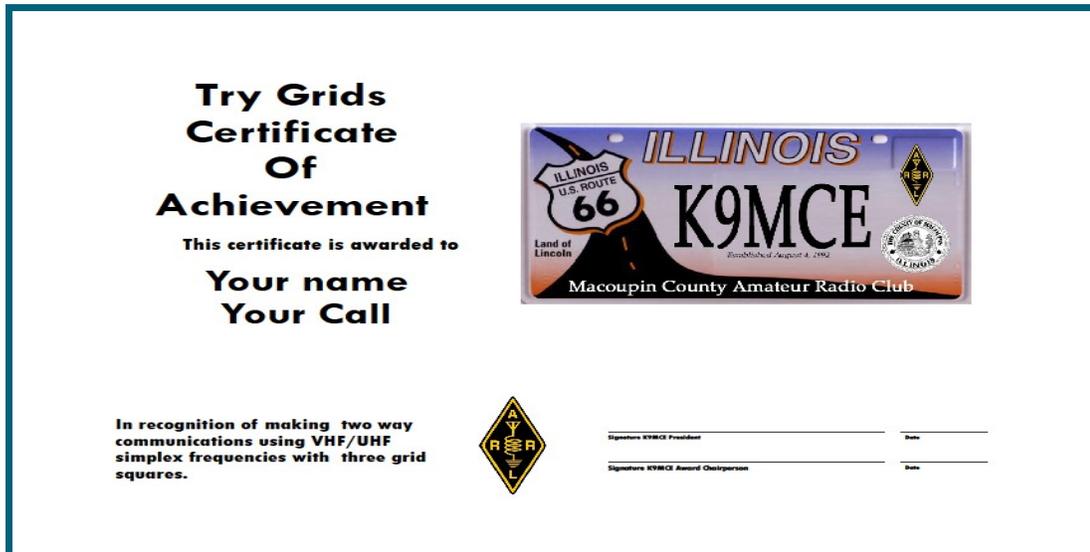
There is plenty to be thankful for, such as this golden orb that greets us every morning, such as this one taken from on top of the Farmersville wind turbine gob site.

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, November 7th. 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, this month, at the Reno's Pizza in the Carlinville square starting around 5:00 pm. This month's presentation immediately after the business meeting is about receiving antennas such as beverages, bogs, loops and flags by Skip WS9V

After the business meeting, FCC VE testing is offered. Call Lou, K9LL for an appointment @ 618-977-4658. Be sure to bring a copy of your license, some pencils and a non-programmable calculator.

K9MCE TRY GRIDS HONOR ROLL



“These club members earned the Try Grids Award and are Honor Roll members.”

Wayne, KC9ZYQ is in EM58 and Dirk, W9OSI is in EM49 and these gentlemen are available for VHF skeds for those working for the Try Grids Award

HONOR ROLL MEMBERS:

- Jim Pitchford, N9LQF
- Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF
- Jeff Naville, KC9WZO
- Paul Durand, KC9YCP
- Ed Kallbrier, KC9QHJ
- Bill Ogle, W9FJ
- Skip Riba, WS9V
- Mark Lewis, KD9EFO
- Lou Bartels, KC9YFU
- Debbie Ochu, KC9ULA

- Dave Reynolds, WA9OEX
- Judy Reynolds, KA9ACM
- Ron Ochu, KO0Z

The K9MCE Try Grids Award was established two years ago to encourage Macoupin County ARC club members to experience the joys of VHF/UHF communications. Members are encouraged to learn more about VHF/UHF propagation, antennas and coax and to im-

prove their stations. Towards that end the award was created and the goal is to successfully establish two-way VHF/UHF contacts either from your QTH or mobile with amateurs in three grids. More information pertaining to grids can be found at this ARRL webpage: <http://www.arrl.org/grid-squares> QSL cards confirming the Qs need to be presented to the committee and then you, too, will be eligible for this prestigious accolade at a club meeting and to have your call inscribed in the



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.

Don't Be In Arrears, Be A Dear!

It's that time of year again...time to once again pay dues. According to the club's constitution, annual dues become due at the October meeting. Club Dues are as follows:

Regular membership is \$20.00/year.
Family membership is \$25.00/year.
Senior membership is \$15.00/year.

Full-time Student is \$10.00/year
Lifetime membership is \$200.00.

Checks are payable to Macoupin County ARC.



Mark KD9EFO Contacts ISS Not Once, But Twice!

Kudos to club president Mark Lewis KD9EFO on contacting the International Space Station (ISS). Mark did it not once, but twice!

His most recent QSO with the ISS was last Saturday morning sometime around 10:30 am. A week or two earlier Mark heard the ISS calling CQ while in his shack with his grandson. Mark quickly grabbed his microphone and made contact with the ISS before its orbital

path took it away from North America. The ISS transmits on 145.800 FM simplex and listens on 144.49 FM and sometimes 145.20. More information can be obtained at <http://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html>



*KD9EFO
Contacted the
ISS not once, but
twice!*

Your ARRL Central Division Contacts:

Director: Kermit Carlson; w9xa@arrl.org 630-879-0983

Vice Director: Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, k9la@arrl.org; 260-637-6988

Illinois Section Manager: Ron Morgan, AD9I,
AD9I@comcast.net



Vote For ARRL Central Director



If you're an ARRL member living in the central division (IL, IN and WI), you should have received your ballot for ARRL Central Division Director. Incumbent director Kermit Carlson W9XA, is being challenged for the seat by Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L. Vice Director Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, is unopposed for re-election.

The ballot is contained in a sealed envelope and needs to be returned in the blue, official voting SASE no later than noon, November 16, 2018.

K9MCE QSN is rerunning both candidate statements from last month on pages 6 and 7.

All ARRL members are urged to vote.

**YOUR
VOTE
COUNTS**

Club Christmas Party Location TBD

“The time, location and price are to be determined at the November meeting.”

At the October meeting, the club voted to hold its annual Christmas Party. The big decision is where?

Three locations were named: The country club in Girard, Reno's Pizza and the Grand Magnum on Route 108 and I-55.

Club members are checking on the prices and the club will decide at the November club meeting.

The date will be Wednesday, December 5th. The time, location and price are to be determined at the November meeting.



Beaver Dam Dash Needs You!



Most of us think that we are prepared for an emergency, but are we as prepared as we like to think we are? I know I am not. Baring an actual emergency, what's the best way to prepare for one? Public service is a one such good way.

Providing communications for a public service event, such as the Beaver Dam Dash is a great way to stay involved with ham radio and to test your preparedness to go out into the field

and to communicate with fellow hams. What makes the Beaver Dam Dash nice, it that it doesn't take an entire week-end or even a day for that matter. Usually it is a three hour event and it's not too taxing and is laid back. It's a great event to participate in and the Tri-County Running club is grateful for the club's participation.

Chuck N9LVY is this year's net control for the dash which is

held at Beaver Dam State Park on Saturday, November 10.

Chuck will need volunteers to assist with the cross country run. HTs work fine on the course.

Contact Chuck at the club meeting or call him at 1-618-585-3525.

October Illinois SET: Operations Darkweb II

Against the national backdrop of an ongoing domestic terrorism investigation of pipe bomb mailings to prominent political leaders and political critics, "Operation Darkweb II" took place over Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27 in Illinois.

Darkweb II's objective is to test statewide communications readiness in the event the internet and 911 services were to go down due to physical means or cyber attacks.

Although most of the SET (simulated emergency test)

dealt with state wide readiness, this scenario would filter down to the local level. Locally, municipal agencies such as hospitals, nursing homes, police and fire departments may need assistance communicating with one another. That's where ARES comes into play.

At the direction of each county EMA director, hams would be deployed to critical points to assist with communications. For example, hams at Staunton Hospital could communicate with a ham located at the Macoupin County Sheriff's office.

Towards the goal, Montgomery county EC Mark Lewis KD9EFO initiated SET activation first on the 146.82 repeater and then coordinated on 147.420 simplex with hams throughout Montgomery county. Macoupin county EC Ron Ochu KO0Z held SET on Saturday by calling the NET on 444.250 and then coordinating on 147.480. Participation reports were forwarded to NC9IL in Springfield for ILEMA briefings.



Club Members Assist with BSA Spooktacular

A brilliant, crisp, fall sunrise greeted early risers on Saturday, October 20th. K9MCE club members Jim Pitchford N9LQF, Jeff Naville KC9WZO, Mark Osborn WA9SXX, Mike Minkanic KD9MNR, Debbie Ochu KC9ULA and Ron Ochu KO0Z headed east into the bright sunshine to converge on Rhodes France v BSA scout camp for Spooktacular's JOTA (jamboree on the air).

Area scouts visited camp

events while attending camp. JOTA was one of the camporee event stations scouts visited. One HF and two VHF stations were made available to scouts.

Over one-hundred contacts were made Saturday morning and many scouts experienced first-hand the excitement and wonderment of amateur radio! 40 meter HF provided scouts the opportunity to contact

Ohio, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Florida which amazed many scouting participants as to how clear radio sounded and only a wire served as an antenna!

The scouts arrived in groups and there was very little down time in between groups. The time passed quickly and it was rewarding to see smiles come across scout faces as they spoke, in real-time, with distant operators. More photos on page 8.

"Many scouts experienced first-hand the excitement and wonderment of amateur radio!"



Scouts and adults gather at the JOTA station



Note the smiling faces as Jim introduces a scout to ham radio!

Central Division Director Kermit Carlson W9XA Statement



It has been my privilege to serve as your Central Division Director since July 2016, and for the six years before as Vice Director. I have traveled to hamfests, conventions, and club meetings, and responded to your concerns. I have attended ARRL Board and Committee meetings working diligently to represent you.

The ARRL needs strong, committed, and experienced leadership to meet the challenges that we face.

I pledge to continue my efforts to;

- Steadfastly represent the consensus of the Central Division Members
- Work to protect the Amateur Radio Spectrum
- Support ARRL legislative action
- Improve ARRL member's services
- Protect Antenna Right
- Fight unfavorable land use conditions that restrict effective antennas
- Strengthen ARES

I presently serve on the ARRL Administration and Finance Committee, 2018 CEO Search Committee, OO-Program Review Committee, and as Chair of the ARRL Board's EMC "ElectroMagnetic Compatibility" Committee. I have formerly served on the Program and Services Committee, Ethics and Elections Committee, VHF Contest Revitalization Committee, and as the Board Liaison to the VUAC. Prior to my election as Vice Director I was the Central Division representative to the VUAC and the VRAC.

First licensed in 1970 as WB9FBX, I became W9XA in 1977 and I hold the FCC Second Class Commercial Radio-Telegraph license. I have Life Membership in the ARRL, the Central States VHF Society, AMSAT and ARRL Maxim Society. I belong to MARS, RSGB, SMC, CW Operators Club, A-I Operators Club, FRRL, NIDXA and I sort QSL cards for the Ninth Area QSL Bureau. I have hosted Amateur Radio Conferences in the Chicago area for AMSAT, TAPR-DCC, the Central States VHF Society and I have been on the W9DXCC DX Convention Committee for the past dozen years.

My interests include VHF-UHF and above, HF DXing, contesting, homebrewing, EME, and 630 Meters.

For the past 30 years I have been on staff at the Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois where I am employed as a Senior Engineering Physicist. For the ten years prior I was a staff engineer and EIC at WGN-TV, Chicago. I reside in Batavia, Illinois with my XYL, Caron W9QLT.

Please see www.W9XA.com for additional information.

I would appreciate your continued support with your vote!

Central Division Director Candidate Valerie Hotzfeld NV9L Statement



Valerie Hotzfeld ~ NV9L for ARRL Central Division Director

As Amateur Radio operators, we are communicators. Many ARRL members have expressed concern over Board actions and proposed actions in the last few years. Much of that concern stems from untimely or inadequate communication. I am running for Central Division Director because I know I can communicate openly with our members. Sharing information with Radio Amateurs is what I do best.

As a Maxim Society member, I support the ARRL's mission and want it to thrive. I want its members to be the driving force behind everything the League does. I believe that:

The membership can best determine who should represent them in the board room. I do not support secretive disqualifications or other interference with the Director-member relationship.

Members should have the chance to study and comment on significant proposed actions before decisions are made.

Every Director should have adequate opportunity to consult with his or her constituents before being asked to vote on matters of importance and to involve the expertise within our member base.

I am very worried about the ARRL's membership decline over the past few years. There are more hams now than there has ever been, yet the league sets negative membership goals (see 2017 annual report exhibit). We need to do better, embracing new hams and bringing back disgruntled or inactive hams. I look forward to focusing my efforts on helping our local clubs thrive. I believe that with healthy active clubs, better ARRL website navigation, easier to access ARRL online tools, and a mentor-ham matching program I'd like to implement, the ARRL membership numbers can rise once again.

I co-host Ham Nation, frequently give presentations to clubs & ARES groups, create tutorial videos, operate contests and chase DX, volunteered for the "Force of 50" team providing communications in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria's devastation, and was selected as the 2018 "Amateur of the Year" at Hamvention. I love this hobby and that is why I'm running.

I'm the controller and 1 of 6 in senior management for a 16-company conglomerate with \$60,000,000 in annual revenue and more than 300 employees. My business success stems from fiscal responsibility, making sound & fair decisions, being goal-driven, and implementing forward-looking strategies. I will do this for ARRL.

I ask for your vote as Director, so I can bring value and representation back to you the member. Respectfully submitted by Valerie Hotzfeld ~ NV9L (go to NV9L.com for more)

Membership Department

2017 Membership Surpasses Goal

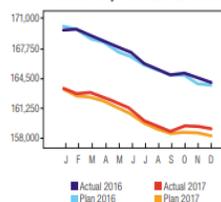
2017 ended with 159,070 members — 735 members ahead of the year-end goal. This represents a loss of 3.05% or 5,000 members for the year.

ARRL Membership Manager Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF, says that the loss of members is occurring in the exact fashion that was forecasted due to the 2016 dues increase, and notes, "We continue to realize additional income from the dues increase. As with all previous increases in dues in ARRL's history, membership is forecasted to continue to decline in 2018 (2.0% loss is forecast). The decline should begin to flatten out in 2019/20."

As was the case in 2016, membership in 2017 came in slightly above forecast.

Diane Petrilli says that test mailings to new hams in mid-June, and fully converted for all new ham mailings mid-October, are likely responsible for the variance at year end. Multiple tests for the new ham mailings are scheduled for 2018. Data for 2017 indicates that 6% of all new hams have already joined ARRL by the time their license is issued or are otherwise unsolicited.

Membership Forecast vs. Actual



Spooktacular JOTA Photos, Pana, IL



Ron KO0Z assisting scouts with their first contact.



Jeff KC9WZO helps a scout make a JOTA QSO.



Scouts presented a card to be punched after visiting a Camporee event such as JOTA



Scout leader Jason Nixon KC9JCB



Mark Osborn WA9SXX introducing scouts to the fun and excitement of ham radio contacts.



Near the JOTA event, a sick, ground hog stumbled And kept falling near the scouts. Suspecting it to be rabid, the ground hog was placed in a trash can until camp rangers were able to safely remove it.

MUD In Our Eyes In Fairborn, Ohio

The headline is a bit misleading. MUD, in this case, stands for Microwave UpDate and it was held in Fairborn, Ohio which is a suburb of Dayton on October 12-14 and Ron KO0Z attended. Microwavers (uW) throughout the country converged to share their latest ideas, techniques and technologies in ham radio microwave communications. KO0Z came back to Illinois invigorated and enthused. It's always nice to associate yourself with ops more skilled and with more talent. By doing so, the opportunity allows for growth and greater interest in the hobby. Some very, very exciting technologies are being developed!



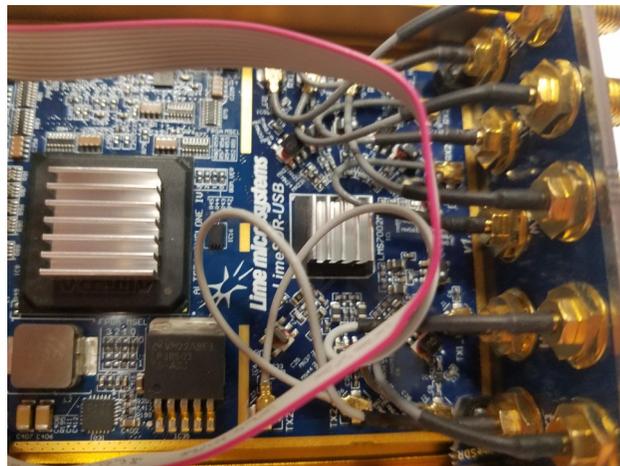
Greeting sign for visitors



Check out the small, prime focus 76 GHz dish!



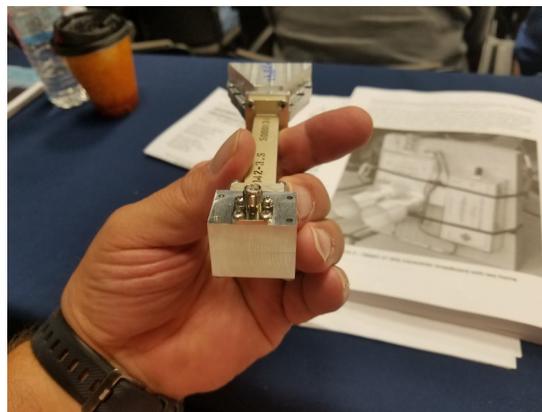
Forums and speakers are offered



The Lime SDR transceiver is very versatile from HF to SHF



This board extends the Lime SDR to 10 GHz



A machined 47 GHz waveguide and horn antenna

Congratulations to Paul KC9YCP and Gretchen!



Hearty congratulations to Paul Durand KC9YCP and to his bride Gretchen who tied the knot on Columbus Day, Monday, October 8th. Paul and Gretchen were married in Springfield, IL. Paul and Gretchen plan to live in St. Louis.

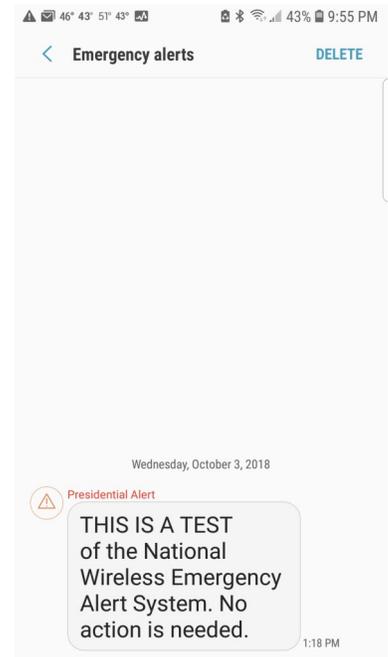


Emergency Alert Test



On Wednesday, October 3, FEMA activated a test Presidential Alert nationwide. The purpose of the test was to ascertain the feasibility of cell phones to receive an emergency alert nationwide.

Ron KO0Z received the alert on his cell phone home page and on his text page. Not everyone was able to receive the alert. Cell phone coverage area, RF shadows in some buildings were some of the reasons for not receiving the test message.



On Top of The Gob

A high, free of obstructions site is every microwave (uW) enthusiasts dream. In the Midwest, these sites are hard to come by. Recently, Ron KO0Z and his friend Herbert AF4JF received permission to operate from on top of the gob site just east of Farmersville near I-55. There is a wind turbine on top of the gob and the site is proving to be an excellent location for uW activity. A big shout out of thanks to Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative for giving permission to operate from their gob site.



KO0Z and AF4JF set up their uW equipment on top of the gob.



Herbert AF4JF is QRV on 1.2 and 10 GHz



Northeast view from on top of the gob.



Familiar wind turbine near I-55 Exit 72, Farmersville.



AF4JF's 1.2 GHz yagi.



Left photo is a view northeast towards Champaign, IL

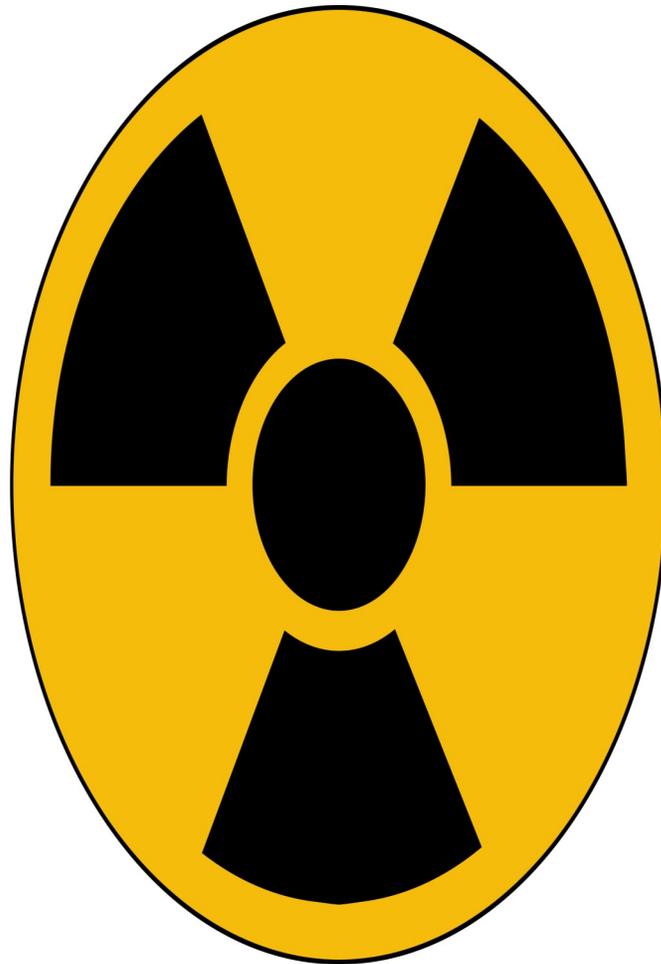
Right photo is looking southwest towards St. Louis, MO.





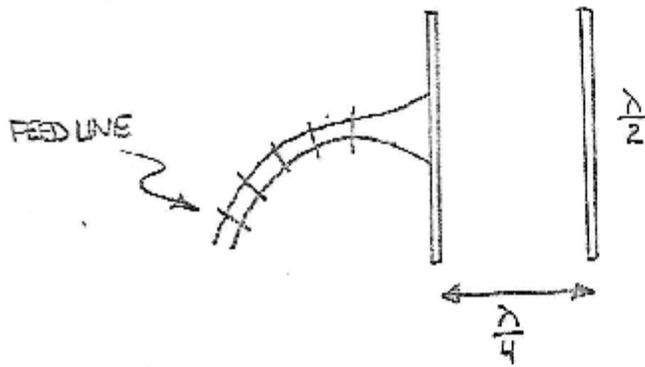
Wishing all K9MCE QSN readers a thankful, joyous holiday!
Thank you for your readership and support!

HAMS ARE "RADIO-ACTIVE"



PARASITIC ANTENNA

$\frac{\lambda}{4}$ SPACING



NULL



NULL

Place an X in the appropriate box.

Are you drunk?

Yes

No

X



Dave O'Dell LUTCF
 145 E. Jackson St., Virden, IL 62690
 217-965-5888
 Annuities, Auto, Financial Planning,
 Home, Life & Mutual Funds

Longtime supporter of the West Central Illinois Hamfest!

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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Testing: Lou Bartels, KC9YFU, 618-977-4658



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

K9MCE November 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				<p>1 Macoupin County ARES Net, KOOZ net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm</p> <p>K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm</p>	2	3 ARRL Nov. Sweepstakes CW
<p>4 Okaw Valley ARC Net@9:00 pm, 444.250</p> <p>K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm</p> <p>ARRL Nov. Sweepstakes CW</p>	<p>5 Lewis & Clark ARC, K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7)</p> <p>W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820</p>	<p>6 Old Capital ARC, Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm</p>	<p>7 Club meeting 7 pm</p> 	<p>8 Macoupin County ARES Net, KOOZ net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm</p> <p>K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm</p>	9	10
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<p>25 Okaw Valley ARC Net@9:00 pm, 444.250</p> <p>K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm</p> <p>CQ WW SSB, ARRL EME Contest</p>	<p>26 Lewis & Clark ARC, K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7)</p> <p>W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820</p>	<p>27 Old Capital ARC, Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm</p>	28	<p>29 Macoupin County ARES Net, KOOZ net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm</p> <p>K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm</p>	30 ARRL 160 meter contest	

