



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, N9LQF
- Ron Ochu, KO0Z

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

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K9MCE QSN

Volume 7, Issue 5

May 2019

K9MCE Club Meeting on Wednesday 1 May



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, May 1st. 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.

The program will be Space Weather's Impact on HF Propagation by Ken Norris, KK9N

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

Try Grids Certificate Of Achievement

This certificate is awarded to

Your name
Your Call



In recognition of making two way communications using VHF/UHF simplex frequencies with three grid squares.



Signature K9MCE President

Date

Signature K9MCE Award Chairperson

Date

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

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 (K9LL)

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 improve 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>

Wayne, KC9ZYQ is in EM58 and Dirk, W9OSI is in EM49 and these gentlemen are available for VHF skeds for those



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 CountInc., 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.

KK9N to Present in May

Ken Norris, KK9N will be presenting at our May club meeting over the topic, "Space Weather and Its Impact on HF Propagation."

Most hams are familiar with Earth's ionosphere, somewhat familiar with Earth's magnetic fields and our Sun's radiation, but how do these elements all interact to affect propagation on the ham bands?

KK9N will shed new light on

this topic and help make you more aware of the importance of space weather not only with HF propagation, but our daily lives.

Ken is a long time member of the Okaw Valley ARC, DXer and contester. KK9N is also a contributing editor to the ARRL Radio Amateur Handbook. He is an expert on remote controlling your station.



IDEN, K9MCE-10 Operational, On The Air!

K9MCE-10 is operational from the Macoupin County 911 tower just north of the fairgrounds on IL Route 4.

The number 10 after the club's call sign is a packet designator used to identify our IDEN (Illinois Digital Emergency Network) node and gateway.

Node means that K9MCE-10

is part of IDEN and it will relay traffic (packets) to their intended recipients. Think of it as an internet back-up system for traffic and emails.

K9MCE-10 is also hooked up to the internet so it will act as a gateway. The coverage is excellent and it operates on a 145.610 FM. The goal is to have every Illinois county IDEN capable.



K9MCE-10 on 911 Tower

"K9MCE-10's coverage is excellent. The antenna is on the 911 tower."

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





DOD, Interoperability Exercise and WWW

The following article is taken from the ARRL website, <http://www.arrl.org/news/departments-of-defense-to-transmit-interoperability-exercise-info-via-www-wwvh>

03/29/2019

The US Department of Defense (DOD) plans to start making use of a provisional time slot on WWV and WWVH to announce upcoming HF military communication exercises and how the Amateur Radio community

can become involved in them. The announcements will occur at 10 minutes past on WWV and at 50 minutes past on WWVH. WWV and WWVH transmit on 2.5, 5, 10, 15, and 20 MHz. The initial announcements are set for the period April 20 – May 3, which coincides with the "Vital Connection" interoperability exercise to be held in Wisconsin. Future time slots will coincide with the Vital Connection exercise Ohio in June; DOD COMEX 19-3 in

August, and the DOD COMEX 19-4 in October. Following the proof of concept this year, DOD anticipates making use of the WWV/WWVH broadcast time slot full time, year-round. At the outset, broadcast messages will likely be static. For future exercises, announcements could be updated throughout an exercise. The messages will direct listeners to a specified website to provide reception reports and feedback.

***"Do you have
a radio
telescope?
You do, if you
have a HF
transceiver! "***

Do You Have a Radio Telescope?

Do you have a radio telescope? You do, if you have a HF transceiver!

On March 15, 2019 Spaceweather.com published an interesting article on their website. A huge, sunspot, AR2738 is producing strong bursts of radio static. "They sound like ocean surf," says Thomas Ashcraft, who recorded this specimen on April 13th using an amateur radio

telescope in New Mexico.

According to the website article, a beam of electrons associated with the sunspot penetrate the solar magnetic canopy creating a ripple effect of plasma and RF (radio frequency) energy and we're able to detect them 93 million miles away with our HF radios. "There have been a lot of these sounds over the past week, and they appear

to be intensifying now that the sunspot is directly facing Earth," says Ashcraft.

The solar radio emissions resemble sounds ocean surf makes on beaches. To hear a sample of this type of static follow this URL: http://www.spaceweather.com/images2019/13apr19/Sun_TypeIII_Ap132019_Ashcraft_01.mp3

April Homebrew Night A Success!

In addition to the program over AMSAT and OSCARS, K9MCE also held its annual "Homebrew Night." This year four members brought in their projects for show and tell.

Some of the projects were still a "work in progress," but the end results are very, very promising!

The point behind homebrew night is to encourage members to DIY or do it yourself.

The club sponsors these categories: rigs, antennas, accessories

Now's the time to resolve yourself and take steps to entering a project in next spring's home brew night!

[Photos on page 6.](#)



KD9EFO, QSLing is Fun!

QSL is ham radio "short-hand" for confirmation. Perhaps you've heard a conversation over the radio that sounded something like, "Did you copy that last message?"

"QSL this is K9ABC."

K9ABC is acknowledging that the message was copied.

QSL also refers to a confirmation card, that looks like a postcard, of a radio contact (QSO). Club president, Mark

KD9EFO sent a copy of a FT8 QSO he made with an op in Washington State. Mark commented that he never gets tired of receiving a QSL card. I'm with you Mark, I enjoy getting them as well!

Remember QSLing is the final courtesy of making a radio contact! **Let's start a monthly QSL club feature in the newsletter! Who's next?!**

Jim Pitchford N9LQF Down, But Not Out

On Thursday 11 April, Jim N9LQF was doing routing maintenance on generators strategically placed throughout the county. His next stop of the day was in Bunker Hill.

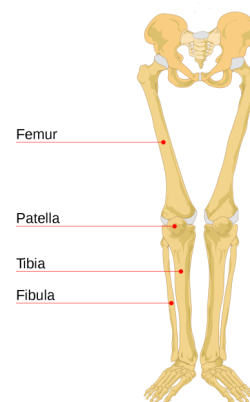
Jim arrived sometime after noon and while getting out of his vehicle, his right foot slipped on a rock causing Jim to fall and to break his right femur just above the

knee. N9LQF drove himself to Carlinville Area Hospital; whereupon, he was transported by ambulance to St. John's Hospital in Springfield. The hospital gave him a leg brace and his doctors informed him that he'd have to have surgery to repair his broken femur, before they could even begin to look at his knee.

On Thursday 25 April, Jim

had his surgical procedure and doctors informed him that the procedure went well! Jim is on the mend and back home recovering.

Doctors told Jim that he can't put any weight on his leg for 12 weeks. Keeping Jim down for that long is going to be his biggest tribulation. We wish Jim a speedy recovery and keep off the leg Jim!



Field Day is Fast Approaching!



June 22 & 23 is Field Day. K9MCE has reserved the same site as the past two years, Mt. Olive Township Park just west of I-55 off of Wolf Road. Porta-potties will be delivered, FD chair Mark Kerhlikar WD9HBF is finalizing plans for K9MCE 3A IL.

All that is needed is YOUR participation!

FT8, Phone and CW and satellite (OSCAR) are in the works. This is a great opportunity to learn more about HF and contesting and satellites.

This is also an opportunity to keep the AD9OV/K9MCE from traveling back to Okaw Valley, but it won't be easy. We need to be active for the entire 24 hours. Especially at night time.

K9MCE April Home Brew Night



Dan Hough KD9LON presented his communications go-kit, a work in progress, at home brew night. Dan is very active in ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service). Dan has a rugged case housing a dual band transceiver, battery and other station accessories.

All photos courtesy of Mark KD9EFO and Mark WD9HBF.

KD9LON's Communications Go-Kit on display. Dan still has more work to do on it, but it is coming along quite nicely!



Club president, Mark Lewis KD9EFO brought his batter case along with battery monitoring devices. Mark is able to monitor battery voltage and current consumption. This is especially helpful while out in the field operating.





Ron Ochu KO0Z presented a commercial 24 GHz horn antenna at homebrew night. This antenna is Ron's latest acquisition towards getting on 24 GHz.



KO0Z also presented a Mega 328 component tester he purchased off of Ebay. Unfortunately, the device arrived partially damaged and Ron was only able to get the LCD screen to light. If working, the device will test inductance, capacitance, LEDs and transistors.



Carlos Arzuagas W9FE demonstrated his DMR HT along with his Hot Spot which allows him to connect to the internet when a digital repeater is not within range. His hot spot go kit allows him to use his DMR HT to connect with talk groups almost anywhere he goes. He has it enclosed in a protective case



April Meeting Featured AMSAT's N0TJD



April's meeting featured AMSAT Ambassador Tom Dougherty N0TJD. Tom presented the theme of Humankind becoming an interplanetary species. Tom brought a lot of visual aids in presentation which kept his presentation lively and very interesting.

Tom also talked about working the LEO (low earth orbiting) satellites using FM, CW and SSB.

We thank Tom and his crew for making the trek from St. Louis to our club meeting.

Illinois Spring SET & ARES

Were you aware that Macoupin, Montgomery and Greene Counties have ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) groups? Were you also aware that there are some very active, community minded members in ARES? ARES biggest presence in our area is Skywarn,© but it is involved with other activities. Such as the Illinois Spring SET held on April 27th. The purpose of the drill is to test simplex communications by interacting with other stations and relaying messages (traffic) back to Springfield.

This SET's scenario: A terrorist or natural event has disrupted traditional communications services and equipment across the Midwest. Cell phones, telephones, and internet are being impacted. It is unknown if this is a cyber-attack or EMP at this time. Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications System (ITECS) and Unified Command Post (UCP) units have been deployed to supplement Emergency Operations Centers in communicating locally and state-wide.

Macoupin/Montgomery/Greene County ARES activated on Saturday, April 27 using 147.480 simplex. All three counties used the same FM simplex frequency to facilitate interoperability relays and information sharing. ARES members deployed to county hospitals and to EMA locations. In Macoupin County, Staunton, Shipman, Carlinville, Girard and Modesto were activated with 2 meter FM simplex communications. The following ARES members participated in this SET: John KD8KVO, Mike KD9MNR, Lou K9LL, Chuck N9LVY, Carlos W9FE, Mike K9MDQ, Jim N9LQF, Debbie KC9ULA, Jeff KC9WZO, Mark WD9HBF, Mark KD9EFO, Brad KD9AZT, Tony KG9AP, Mark KD9VXR, Ken KC5WFH, Isaac WX9SRV and Ron KO0Z (I hope I didn't leave anyone out...my apologies if I did).

All of our SET objectives were met including using ICS 205 and 214 forms, county-wide and intercounty FM simplex communications, deployment to strategic locations throughout the county (southwest Macoupin County Medora and Hettic didn't have any ops, but Jeff KC9WZO in Rockbridge could have filled the gap if necessary). Test emergency traffic messages were sent, both county hospitals were activated, we had an op at the sheriff/dispatch center in Carlinville and messages were sent back to NC9IL in Springfield via 80 meter phone, 80 meter WinLink RMS Express and via our new K9MCE-10 IDEN node.

All-in-all a very successful SET from our perspective. Kudos to all the ops who made this effort a huge success!

Ron Ochu KO0Z, Macoupin County ARES EC

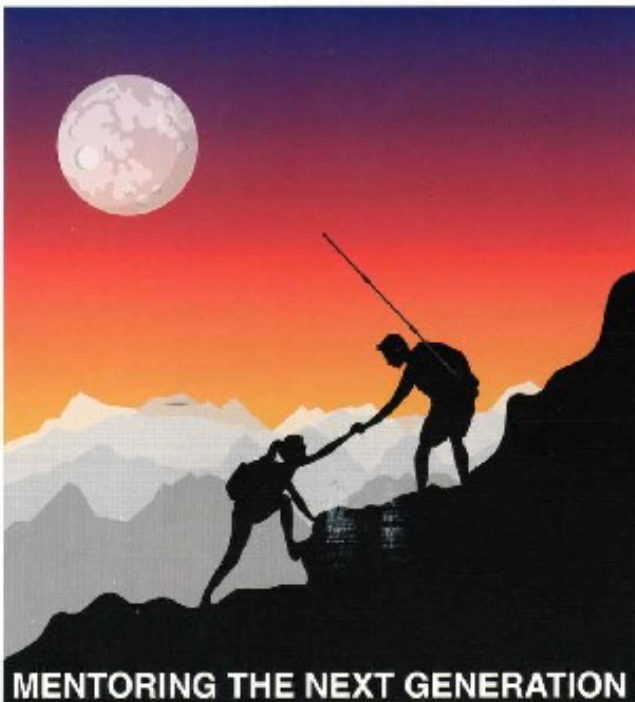


LIFE IS SIMPLE





Full legal limit amplifier has other benefits, although dripping grease may present just a wee bit of a problem for the tubes...



Get your Tickets Today!

www.hamvention.org

Dayton HAMVENTION²⁰¹⁹

**May 17 – 19, 2019
Greene County
Fairgrounds & Expo Center**

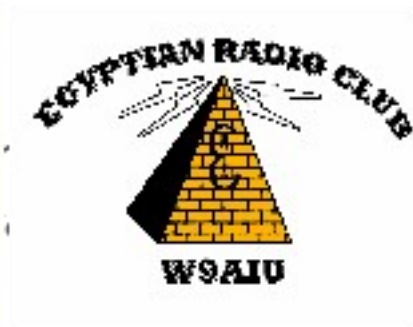
210 Fairground Rd, Xenia, OH 45385

Ticket Prices: \$22 in advance, \$27 at the door.

General Inquiry: Dayton Hamvention

P.O. Box 964 Dayton, OH 45401

(937)276-6930



EGYPTIAN FEST 2019

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

06/09/2019

Start Date: 06/09/2019

End Date: 06/09/2019

Location: Holy Family Church Community Center

2600 Washington Avenue

Granite City, IL 62040

Website: <http://www.w9aiu.org/index.php>

Sponsor: Egyptian Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.76 (PL 141.3), 146.79 (PL 127.3)

Public Contact: Jason Cato , KB9LBC

2334 Maynor Drive Cahokia, IL 62206

Phone: 631-829-9185

WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS HAMFEST

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 2019



Macoupin County Fairgrounds

21149 IL RTE 4, Carlinville, IL

TALK-IN 444.250 (103.5 CTCSS)

7 am to 1 pm

Forums

- ♦ Family friendly, 16 and under free admission
- ♦ QSL card checking for ARRL, CQ awards
- ♦ Test bench
- ♦ ARRL VE Exams, walk-ins Okay
- ♦ ARCH Helicopter
- ♦ IEMA UCP and ITEC displays
- ♦ Great attendance prizes!
- ♦ Breakfast & Lunch on site
- ♦ Rob Orr K9RST: Chicago Marathon
- ♦ Tom Dougherty N0TJD: AMSAT
- ♦ Dan Frey K9DNO: APRS & Ballooning
- ♦ Skywarn : Mark Lewis KD9EFO, Isaac Pizzo WX9SRV & Dan Hough KD9LON
- ♦ Skip Riba WS9V: Loops and beverages
- ♦ Ken Norris KK9N: Understanding Solar Impact on HF Communications
- ♦ Mark Kerhlikar WD9HBF: Rover setup
- ♦ Soldering workshop



Like us on

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hamfestfun/>

Admission \$5, outdoor tailgating \$10, indoor tailgating \$15

Contact: Jim Pitchford N9LQF
217-248-3548
N9LQF@arrl.net

Sponsored by Macoupin County ARC, Montgomery County ARC,





SCARC HAMFEST



**August 11
2019**

Elks Lodge--O'Fallon, MO
1163 Tom Ginnever Ave. 63366

Lat 38.822739, Long -090.667931W

Admission tickets

1 - \$ 5.00

5 - \$ 20.00

Vendor hall opens

8AM - 12PM

Flea Market opens

7AM - 12PM

Prizes

1st prize Geochron digital 4K

2nd Prize AnyTone AT-D878UV

3rd Prize West Mountain Radio RIGrunner 4008
W/ Pack of (10) 30A Powerpole connectors

Talk In

146.670 -

Alt.

145.330 -

Tables

\$ 15.00 before Aug 1st

\$ 20.00 after Aug 1st

8' Tables

Chairs / Electric Provided

Covered access Loading assistance

Air Conditioned Hall

Vendor access / setup 6:30 AM

Flea Market

\$ 10.00 per space

Large, flat parking area

Limit items to Amateur Radio and Electronics

Vendor access / setup 6:30 AM

WB0HSI.org/hamfest

CONTACT: Michael Maninger KC0GKN
(636)697-5381 Please leave message if no answer
Email: scarc.hamfest@gmail.com

Visit the SCARC store to buy tickets & tables / spaces
[Squareup.com/market/st-charles-amateur-radio-club-inc](https://squareup.com/market/st-charles-amateur-radio-club-inc)



Dave O'Dell LUTCF
145 E. Jackson St., Virden, IL
62690
217-965-5888
Annuities, Auto, Financial Plan-

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

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

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

Website: www.k9mce.org

Webmaster: Isaac Pizzo, WX9SRV



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

K9MCE May 2019

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 Club meeting 7 pm 	2 Macoupin County ARES Net, KO0Z net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm	3	4
5 Okaw Valley ARC Net@9:00 pm, 444.250 K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm	6 Lewis & Clark ARC K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7) W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820	7 Old Capital ARC, Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm	8	9 Macoupin County ARES Net, KO0Z net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm	10	11 CQ WW FOX- HUNTING WEEKEND
12 Okaw Valley ARC Net@9:00 pm, 444.250 K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm CQ WW FOXHUNTING WEEKEND	13 Lewis & Clark ARC, K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7) W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820	14 Old Capital ARC, Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm	15	16 Macoupin County ARES Net, KO0Z net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm	17 Dayton Hamven- tion	18 Dayton Hamven- tion
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26 Okaw Valley ARC Net@9:00 pm, 444.250 K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm CQ WW CW WPX CON- TEST	27 Lewis & Clark ARC, K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7) W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820 Memorial Day 	28 Old Capital ARC, Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm	29	30 Macoupin County ARES Net, KO0Z net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm	31	



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Webmaster: Isaac
Pizzo WX9SRV

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



[https://
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Amateur-Radio-Club-
K9MCE-327469225218/](https://www.facebook.com/Macoupin-County-Amateur-Radio-Club-K9MCE-327469225218/)

Local weekly nets:

Sunday: Okaw Valley ARC,
444.250 @ 9:00 pm
Sunday: N9MAF Net, 146.805
@ 9:00 pm.

Monday: Lewis and Clark ARC,
145.23 @ 8:00 pm
Monday: W9VEI Memorial
Net, 146.820 at 8:30 pm

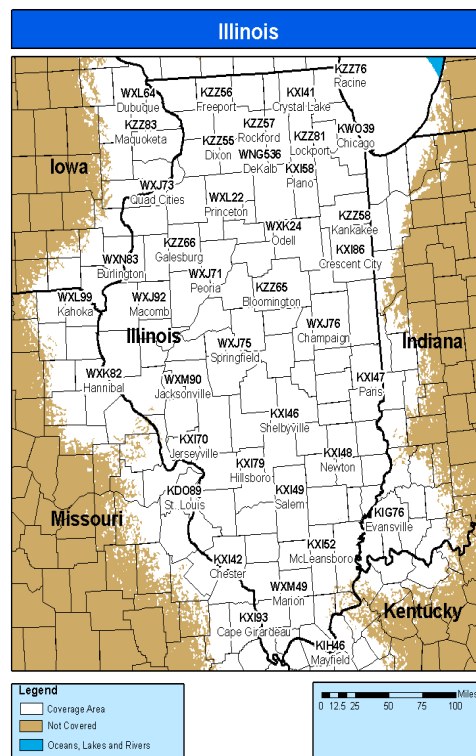
Tuesday: Old Capitol ARC,
Vandalia 146.745 @ 8:00 pm
Thursday: SSB, 144.200 @ 7:30
pm
Thursday: Macoupin County

IL NOAA NWS WX

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/IL.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.



Illinois HF Traffic Nets, Times and Frequencies...

Illinois Side Band Net - Net Manager WB9QPM

Daily on 3905 at 1800 local time

Illinois Emergency Net - Net Manager K9HEZ & Illinois Phone Net

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

Illinois ARES Net

First and third Sunday of the month

3.905 MHz at 16:30 local.

Nets