



K9MCE Officers:

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- Bill Ogle, W9FJ
- Jim Pitchford, N9LQF
- Ron Ochu, KO0Z

Macoupin County ARC
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PO Box 253
Carlinville, IL 62626-0253

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K9MCE QSN

Volume 7, Issue 4

April 2019

K9MCE Club Meeting on Wednesday 3 April



April Fool's

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, April 3rd. 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 is AMSAT Ambassador Tom Dougherty, N0TJD, "How we will become an Interplanetary Species," along with club homebrew night. Plan on

showing your project. Prizes are rumored!

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.

Homebrew Night is Here!

You don't have a lot of time left to complete your homebrew project in time for our club's homebrew night project night, but not to worry. Bring the uncompleted project anyway! The idea behind homebrew night is to actually become a DIY (do it yourself) engineer.

There are three categories: Rigs, Antennas and Accessories. Accessories examples include Morse code keys,

clocks, software programs, rotors, test bench equipment, etc.

Do you have an HF antenna in the offing, but it is too big to bring to the meeting? Not a problem. Take a picture and bring along a diagram!

Rumor has it that prizes will be awarded in all three categories.



Tom Dougherty N0TJD Program Presenter

Tom Dougherty N0TJD AM-SAT Ambassador and Educator will present this month's program. His topic will be over "Space-AMSAT-How we will become an Interplanetary Species."

How we get there, what we do around Earth, how CubeSats have changed amateur radio and expected colony of Mars will be featured

in his presentation.

Tom hails from Warson Woods, MO and is kindly making the trek from St. Louis to Carlinville! In addition, Tom also will be a forum speaker at the West Central Illinois Hamfest in August.

After Tom's program, members will have the opportunity

to present their projects for homebrew night. This is a club meeting you will not want to miss!



***"Space-AMSAT
-How we will
become an
Interplanetary
Species."***

Your ARRL Central Division Contacts:

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

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

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



West Central Illinois Hamfest Update



Saturday, August 3rd

Next hamfest committee meeting on April 14th.

The West Central Illinois Hamfest committee met at Litchfield's China Town restaurant on Sunday, March 10th. Committee members updated the group on their individual assignments. Tickets are being purchased for the hamfest. The hamfest will remain open one hour later to one pm. Main prize drawing will now be at 12:30 pm.

Improvements in the in the

hamfest public address system are being addressed.

The UCP (unified command post) and ITECS (Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications System) trailer will again be on display at the hamfest.

The kit soldering forum was a big hit and plans are to include it in this year's offering. Forums are set. The headliner will be Rob Orr K9RST and the Chicago Mar-

athon, Skywarn and IL tornado outbreak, APRS and Ballooning, AMSAT, Understanding The Sun's Effect on HF Communications, Introduction to Weak Signal Work and Loops and Beverages.

Jim and Gloria's mouth-watering BBQ will be offered, but our hamfest's increasing attendance, Jim and Gloria need counter help! Attendance prizes and ARRL Exams will be offered.

"The course covers severe weather development, identification and reporting."



Originally scheduled in February, the NWS storm spot-

ting class was postponed due to the federal government shutdown.

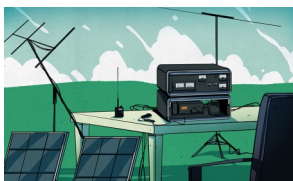
The class is rescheduled for Wednesday, April 10 at 7:00 pm at the Blackburn College auditorium in Carlinville.

This class lasts about 2 hours and it is interactive! Bring your smart phone with you. You'll have an opportunity to

interact with the lesson. The course covers severe weather development, identification and reporting. You'll also have the opportunity to meet our area's new NWS (national weather service) WCM (warning coordination meteorologist) Kevin Deitsch.

Kevin now holds the position that Jim Kramper held before he retired last spring.

Congrats to Don O'Brien KD9MQX!



Club member Don O'Brien of Benld took his Technician class test at the March club meeting and he passed it with flying colors.

Fortunately, the FCC was catching up on the backlog of applications due to the government shutdown and Don received his call sign.

Don is KD9MQX and he is on the air!

Don is beginning to build his shack and to populate it with radio equipment.

Congratulations Don on joining the amateur radio family!

You did it!
Congratulations

Sept VHF Contest K9MCE Division Winners!

Congratulations to Mark Kerhlikar WD9HBF/R Central Division winner in the limited rover category in the September ARRL VHF Contest. Kudos to Skip Riba WS9V, Central Division winner in the unlimited multiop category. Limited Rover means the rover is restricted to lower power (200 watts). Unlimited multiop allows the team to use up to 1500 watts.

The following from the

ARRL website : Contest Objective: For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada.

All legal modes are permitted (while CW and SSB/Phone are most common, MSK144, FT8 and FM-Only are gaining popularity - other popular modes include PSK31, FSK441 and JT65). For Cabrillo file mode definitions, Digital modes should be represented as "DG" (for all things digital) or "PH" or "RY" can also be used as digital modes are transmitted via Phone audio.



Interested in Fast Scan Amateur TV?

Hello ATV Champion!

GREAT NEWS! I am happy to say that the Amateur Television Network is now LIVE on YouTube! Go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYut14yhNVynXsNK-IySdA/live>

and you can watch and interact with our W6ATN Santiago Peak ATV repeater, which is our hub of 6 other ATV repeaters within our network (Oat Mtn, Snow Peak, Jobs Peak, Santa Barbara, Mt. Wilson, Mt. Potosi).

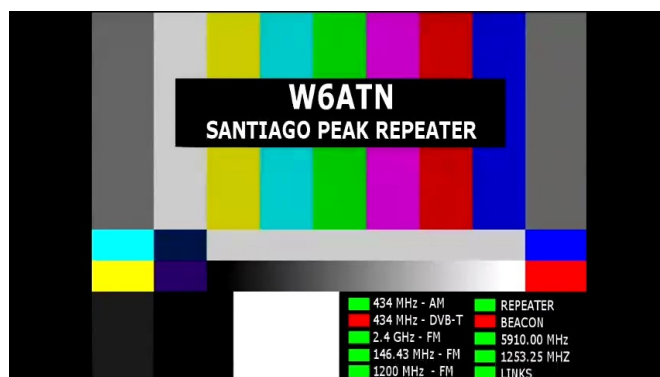
Be sure to SUBSCRIBE to our live channel. Once we receive 100 subscribers, we will

be eligible for a new URL that will be easy to remember and will highly reflect our ATN group.

If you have any questions or having trouble viewing our stream, please feel free to email me anytime.

I hope you enjoy our new home for our live streaming

***"Amateur
Television
Network is
now LIVE on
YouTube!"***



K9HAM Hamfest A Fun Event



The Lewis and Clark ARC, K9HAM held their hamfest on Saturday, March 23 at a new location on the Lewis and Clark Community College campus. Past years saw the hamfest in the college gym, but planned construction in the gym forced the club to move up the hamfest a month earlier and in a new location - the college commons building.

The new location wasn't hard to find and it is very accommodating. Saturday's weather helped with mostly sunny skies and temperature in the fifties. The club offered forums and prize drawings. Maybe it's me, but I think the attendance improved over past years! That's good to see because, for me, Lewis and Clark's hamfest is the "home opener" for St. Louis area hamfests!

As with all hamfests, there's a social element and it was good seeing hams gathered together. I wasn't really looking for anything in particular, but I still managed to burn a hole in my pocket and not leave the hamfest empty handed. I am now the proud owner of a Bill Orr Radio Handbook (1967) and a U.S. Navy WW II straight key!

Congratulations to K9HAM for a FB job with the hamfest and keeping the tradition alive and well!

Vernal Equinox Time



March 20th was the vernal (spring) equinox (equal day and night). The vernal (spring) and autumnal (fall) equinoxes means each hemisphere has equal amounts of day and night. A few weeks leading up to and after the equinox is a great time to work DX. That's why a lot of DXpeditions schedule near the equinoxes. Equinoxes are an especially good time to work DX via long path openings. Thunderstorm activity is still at minimal levels in the northern hemisphere.

Norm Champion WA9OJC (SK)



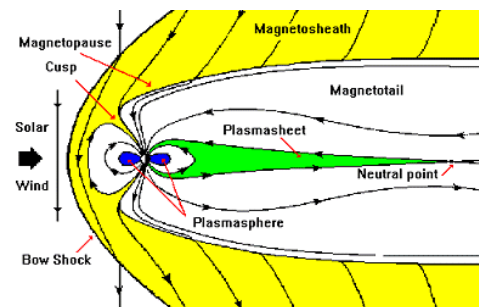
Our heartfelt condolences to family and friends of Norm Champion WA9OJC of Girard, IL. Cassie Eigenman KD9JCP informed area hams that Norm became a silent key (SK) at 9:30 pm on March 17th.

Norm was a long time amateur radio operator in the area and very active in the hobby before his health began to decline. WA9OJC will be missed, but never forgotten.

"Southward B_z "

So what is Southward B_z ? Solar scientists refer to this as "B sub Z tips south". Both the Sun and the Earth are magnets with magnetic fields. When the solar magnetic field tips to the south relative to the Earth's magnetic field can partially cancel out Earth's magnetic field at the point of contact and solar wind energy can reach Earth's ionosphere.

Ionospheric disturbances can cause havoc on the HF bands ranging from high static levels to blackouts. Diagram is from Spaceweather.com



Meteor Scatter, Try Dragon Scatter!

Most hams, by nature, are experimenters and enjoy “pushing the limits” in terms of creating a better antenna, propagation, increasing communication distances to name just a few. Most hams have heard the term, “meteor scatter.” When meteors enter into Earth’s atmosphere, they quickly heat and soon burn up. In the process of burning up, they leave a highly ionized trail behind them which can reflect radio signals in many directions (scatter). Normal line of sight bands, such as two-meters, can now make contacts hundreds of miles away!

Drs Franke and Taylor created the digital mode FT8 which has been sweeping ham radio by storm. FT8 can detect very weak signals which makes it a fun mode to work. Ron Murray N9JJ of Edwardsville, IL was using FT8 on two meters with his beam pointed at 60 degrees with a M2 2MXP20 (advertised gain 15.3 dbi) in horizontal polarization at about 135 feet with about 150 watts on March 8 late morning. He was working an op in Ohio. As fortune would have it, Space X’s Dragon was reentering the atmosphere after undocking with the ISS. As Dragon made it’s fiery reentry back to Earth, Ron’s antenna just happened to be aimed at Dragon’s ionization trail! The follow email exchange ensued!

On 3/8/2019 10:44 AM, Dexter McIntyre W4DEX wrote:

This morning during the SpaceX Dragon reentry I pointed the antenna NW into the reentry path thinking I may see some reflection from the ionization trail. I got one FT8 reception from N9JJ at 576 miles. What’s the possibility this actually was a reentry trail reflection? I was watching the reentry on NASA TV and the timing looks right for the reception.

On 3/8/2019 10:58 AM, Gedas wrote:

It is possible. I just verified that the timing seems to be correct and the path very close.

Given such a strong signal at that distance I would say a definite maybe. If you did not receive any other signals before or after that adds more credibility. WTG.

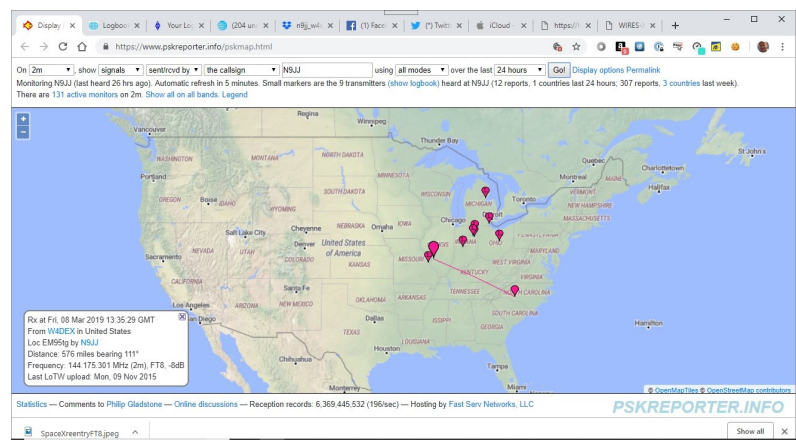
Gedas, W8BYA

If you can get an estimate of the RCS for the SpaceX Dragon and info from N9JJ regarding his power out and antenna gain/heading so you can calculate incident power on the Dragon then you can use the bistatic radar equation to calculate expected signal strength at your station and that, along with knowing the distance from N9JJ to the Dragon and from the Dragon to you, your antenna gain, and your system noise figure will give you the answer as to whether you really had any chance of decoding a signal reflected off the Dragon. I’ve done that for the ISS, but that has a published RCS. If you can’t get published RCS info on the Dragon then using its physical dimensions would give you a good first approximation of its RCS. I’d offer to do it but I am too busy with another project. But if you get the necessary data, its a trivial plug-in problem so if you get all of the necessary data and want a check on your calculations, I’d be happy to run the numbers provided to me to produce an answer for you.

73,

Roger

Quite possibly, Ron N9JJ scattered his 2 meter signal off of Space X’s Dragon’s ionization trail as it reentered Earth’s atmosphere !



US Amateur Radio Bands

US AMATEUR POWER LIMITS

FCC 97.313 An amateur station must use the minimum transmitter power necessary to carry out the desired communications.
(b) No station may transmit with a transmitter power exceeding 1.5 kW PEP.

Amateurs wishing to operate on either 2,200 or 630 meters must first register with the Utilities Technology Council online at <https://utc.org/public-database-amateur-notification-process/>. You need only register once for each band.

2,200 Meters (135 kHz)



630 Meters (472 kHz)

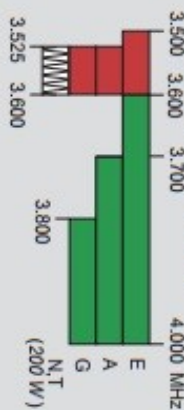


160 Meters (1.8 MHz)

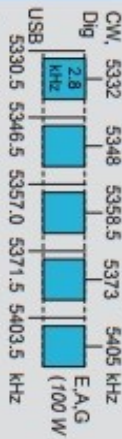
Avoid interference to radiolocation operations from 1,900 to 2,000 MHz



80 Meters (3.5 MHz)

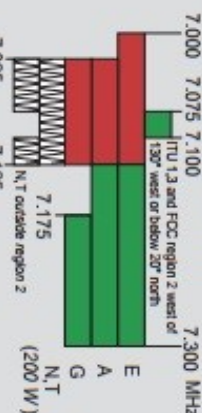


60 Meters (5.3 MHz)



General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra licensees may operate on these five channels on a secondary basis with a maximum effective radiated power (ERP) of 100 W PEP relative to a half-wave dipole. Permitted operating modes include upper sideband voice (USB), CW, RTTY, PSK31 and other digital modes such as PACTOR.

40 Meters (7 MHz)



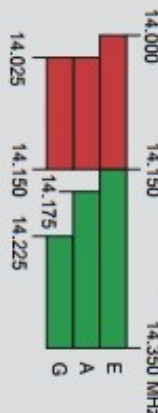
See Sections 97.305(c), 97.307(f)(1) and 97.307(e). These exemptions do not apply to stations in the continental US.

30 Meters (10.1 MHz)

Avoid interference to fixed services outside the US.



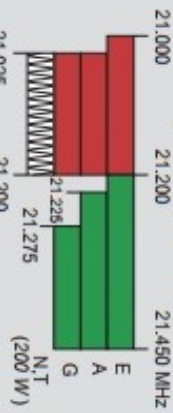
20 Meters (14 MHz)



17 Meters (18 MHz)



15 Meters (21 MHz)



12 Meters (24 MHz)



10 Meters (28 MHz)



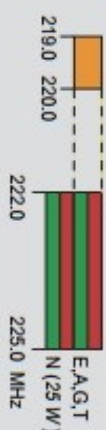
6 Meters (50 MHz)



2 Meters (144 MHz)



1.25 Meters (222 MHz)



* Geographical and power restrictions may apply to all bands above 420 MHz. See The ARRL Operating Manual for information about your area.

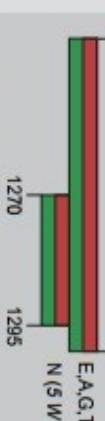
70 cm (420 MHz)*



33 cm (902 MHz)*



23 cm (1240 MHz)*



All licensees except Novices are authorized all modes on the following frequencies:

2300-2310 MHz	10.0-10.5 GHz	122.25-123.0 GHz
2380-2450 MHz	24.0-24.25 GHz	134-141 GHz
3300-3500 MHz	47.0-47.2 GHz	241-250 GHz
5650-5925 MHz	76.0-81.0 GHz	All above 275 GHz



ARRL
The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO®

KEY

Note:
CW operation is permitted throughout all amateur bands.

MCW is authorized above 50.1 MHz, except for 144.0-144.1 and 219-220 MHz. Test transmissions are authorized above 51 MHz, except for 219-220 MHz.

- █ = RTTY and data
- █ = phone and image
- █ = CW only
- █ = SSB phone
- █ = USB phone, CW, RTTY, and data
- █ = Fixed digital message forwarding systems only

- E = Amateur Extra
- A = Advanced
- G = General
- T = Technician
- N = Novice

See [ARRLWeb](http://www.arrl.org) at www.arrl.org for detailed band plans.

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email: membership@arrl.org

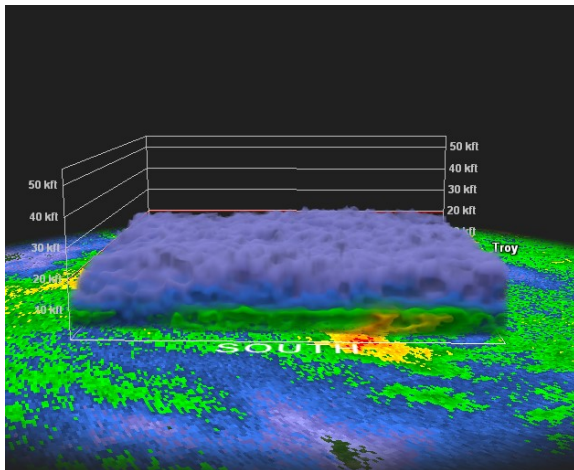
Getting Started in Amateur Radio:
Toll-free 1-800-326-3942 (860-594-0355)
email: news@arrl.org

Exams: 860-594-0300 email: vec@arrl.org

GR2Analyst: A Powerful WX Program

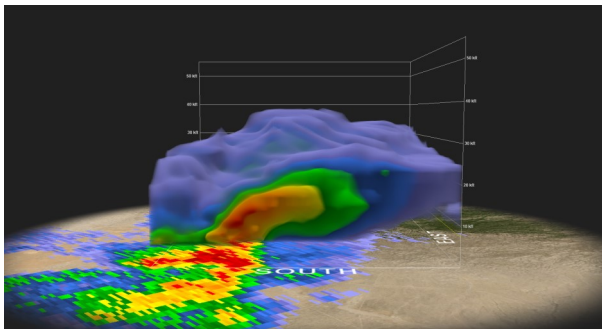
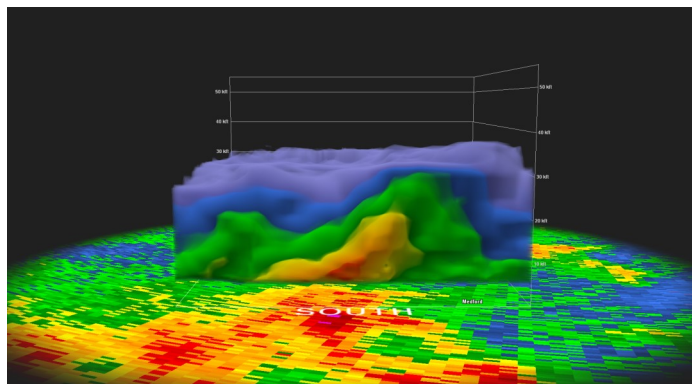
From the folks that brought us GRLevel 3, Gibson Ridge Software, LLC, comes GR2Analyst 2.80. Like GRLevel, GR2Analyst gets data from the National Weather Service's doppler radar sites. In addition to showing radar reflections and base velocity, this powerful program also gives 3D images of the storm. It can also cross section a storm allowing the user to peer inside the storm cloud!

GR2Analyst is a great tool for any Skywarn observer's tool box! It can give a definite "heads up" to an approaching storm front in terms of directing weather spotters where to train their eyes on a particular storm. The software does have a free trial period of around 21 days to see if you'd be interested in purchasing it. Currently it costs about \$250.00.



Typical, springtime, garden variety rain storm in 3D. Notice the cloud tops are coming close to 20 K feet. This is typical for a "run of the mill" rain event.

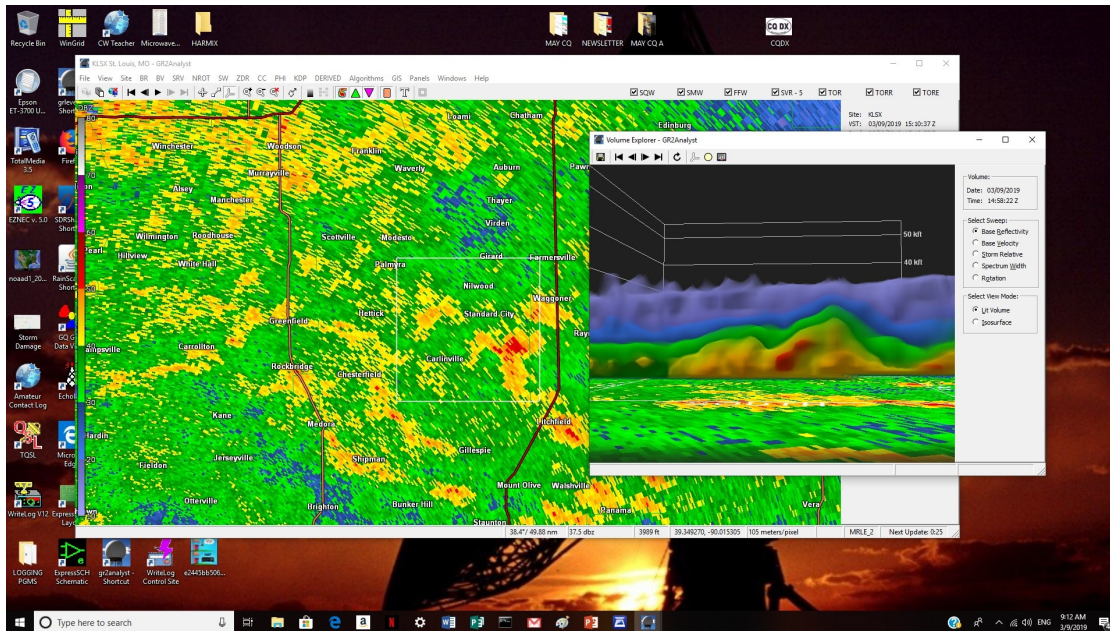
Here is a 3 D image of a typical thunderstorm. Notice the updraft in this storm and the water content indicated by the blues, greens, yellows and reds.



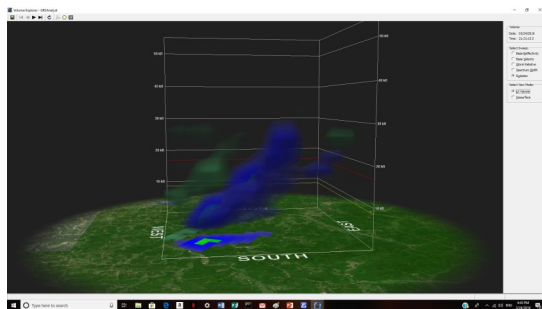
This storm top is building and an anvil is beginning to form. Notice the strong updraft in this 3 D image.

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

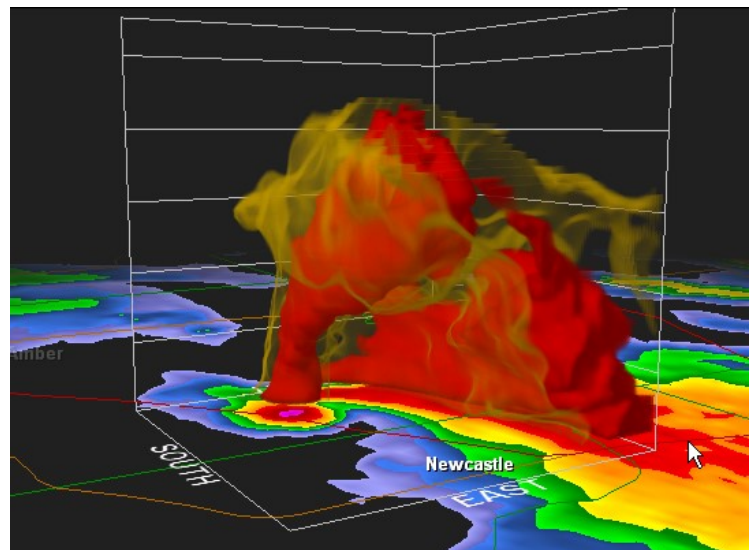


Radar return from St. Louis NWS radar. Storm is south of Standard City (a few weeks ago). Notice the 3 D image of the same storm. It's possible to determine if the storm is strengthening or weakening.



This is 3D image of a storm cell with the rotation button selected. Note the rotation in the storm as indicated by the green and the blue. I didn't record where this T-storm cell was located. This program allows users to look at any NWS radar site.

The 3D image on the right is EF5 tornado near Moore, OK. Note the very strong rotation signature in red. This tornado was lethal and did wide spread damage in 2013.



CSVHFS Spring Sprints!



This is a fun, laid back, short contest. The rules do not indicate that FM cannot be used. The goal is to work new grids and have fun doing it!

The rules can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/home/2019-information>

You do not have to be a member of CSVHFS to participate in the spring sprints.

Contest Purpose: Encourage weak signal VHF/UHF amateur radio operation & have fun.

144 MHz Monday April 8, 2019

222 MHz Tuesday April 16, 2019

432 MHz Wednesday April 24, 2019

Microwave Saturday May 4, 2019
cal

50 MHz Saturday May 11, 2019
May 12, 2019 0300z

a. QRP: up to 5 watts PEP. (any band)

b. Low Power: up to 200 watts PEP. (any band)

c. High Power: up to 1500 watts PEP. (any band)

0700 - 1100 PM Local

0700 – 1100 PM Local

0700 – 1100 PM Local

0800 AM – 0200 PM Local

2300z through Sunday

4.0 Exchange: Maidenhead Grid Square. Microwave contest exchange must be the full 6 character gri

K9MCE Field Day Update



Jim N9LQF has made arrangements to have porta potties at our Field Day location. Towards our club's efforts to secure the traveling trophy, "two in a row," every preparation and effort is being made to increase and maximize our club's on the air activity!



K9MCE MACOUPIN AMATUER RADIO CLUB

MINUTES FROM MARCH 6th, 2019 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING



Meeting called to order by President Mark L KD9EFO at 7:02 PM with the pledge of allegiance

Officers Present: President Mark L KD9EFO, Vice President John N KD8KVO, Secretary Mark K WD9HBF, BOD Member Jim P N9LQF, BOD KO0Z, BOD Member Bill O W9FJ, and club members including Ken KG5WFH, Mike M KD9MNR, Lou B K9LL, Mike K9MDQ, Chuck N9LVY, Debbie O KC9ULA, Roger K9LJB and his wife Vicki KD9PAU, Dan H KD9LON, Carlos W9FE, Nolan KA9VKC. Associate Member Don O' Brien (will be testing after meeting this evening)

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES (February 6th, 2019)

Motioned by: John N KD8KVO 2nd by: Ron O KO0Z Motion carried

TREASURER REPORT (Tim C KC9QHA) (Jim P reported in Tim's absence)

Bank Balance: \$5390.28



Motion to accept Treasurer Report

Motion by: Ron O KO0Z 2nd by Chuck N9LVY

Motion carried

HAMFEST NEWS: Next meeting to include those on the committee from the 4 clubs involved with the planning of the WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS HAMFEST on AUGUST 3rd, 2019 (Okaw Valley Club, Sangamon Valley Club, Montgomery Club and Macoupin County club) will take place on Sunday March 10th, 3:00 PM in Litchfield, IL at the CHINA KING RESTAURANT. Ron reported that the ARCH Helicopter will be returning, Jim P said the ITEC's, and UCP will be returning for cost of fuel and dinner, the ILEAS and portable tower people availability is still yet unknown and Abe Lincoln has not yet committed.



FIELD DAY NEWS (Mark K WD9HBF)



Mark K WD9HBF requested people to attend this year's field day event, if you're unfamiliar with HF come on out and get on the air and get involved. Both Ron KO0Z, Mark KD9EFO, and Mark K encouraged people to get involved with HF contests (ARRL SSB DX was last weekend) to hone your listening and phonetics skills.

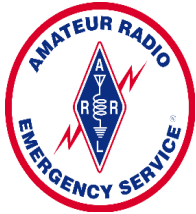
K9MCE WEBSITE REPORT (Isaac P. WX9SVR)



Isaac was not in attendance but Mark L KD9EFO spoke with Isaac and reported some analytics from website, 69 different users, 81 came through desktops, 17 through mobile devices: searches included GOOGLE and links from Okaw Valley Website, 11 hits on hamfest and homepage

VP of EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS (Jim P. N9LQF, Macoupin County EM)

Jim reported that a NWS Spotter class is scheduled for April 10th at Blackburn College 7:00-9:00 PM. Taylorville will have a spotter class on April 11th including a discussion of the Dec 1st tornado events. Simulated Emergency Training exercise coming up on April 27th, activating voice and digital modes. National Traffic System and Emergency Communication are the two forms of communication with regards to amateur radio, and blending those two formats are challenging, so this SET is set to address ICS 213, and RMS WINLINK. Jim P encouraged everyone to download WINLINK Express (winlink.org) and set up a Winlink account.

**MACOUPIN COUNTY ARES REPORT** (Ron O. KOØZ, Macoupin County EC)

Ron reported that the ARES NET meets every THURSDAY evening at 8:00 PM on 147.480 FM SIMP-KEX, and 2nd THURSDAY of every month there is a SKYWARN drill on 146.820 repeater. Ron reiterated some of Jim P's comments on the APRIL 27th upcoming SET, use emergency power if possible, use teams and alternating times, Ron said he would send out the email detailing the frequencies and other objectives of the SET. The next ARES quarterly meeting will be April 20th here in the boardroom at 10:00 AM. Ron also reported that he has the new K9MCE QSL card

OLD BUSINESS: Homebrew projects for next meeting on April 3rd, 2019 including antennas, rigs, and accessories. The AMSAT Ambassador will be presenting at the April meeting too.

NEW BUSINESS: Mark K WD9HBF encouraged all members to bring in any item for show and share at any meeting. Mark K also reported that the Central States VHF Sprints will be coming up very soon including 2M.

March 23-24th Mark K is looking for radio op's to help on the upcoming dryland dog race at Taylorville South Fork Dirt Riders Park. A decision to cancel will be reached on March 16th.

March 23 is also the Lewis and Clark Hamfest in Godfrey, IL.

Chuck N9LVY said Bob Heil will be at Lewis and Clark's next radio club meeting, the first Tuesday of the month.

April 27th is the Lincoln Trail Hike and Roger K9LJB is looking for volunteers to help out (talk with Roger)

Dayton Hamvention coming up May 17-18-19th 2019

Ron O encouraged people to participate in the 2M SSB net on Thursday nights at 7:00 PM

Dan Hough asked if the club is considering a FUSION Repeater. Mark L said that there has been some discussion among ourselves concerning the possibility of a new digital repeater.

Jim P asked for a straw poll, raising our hands to move into the digital era (most people raised their hands)

An informal discussion ensued about entering the digital repeater era including comments from many club members.

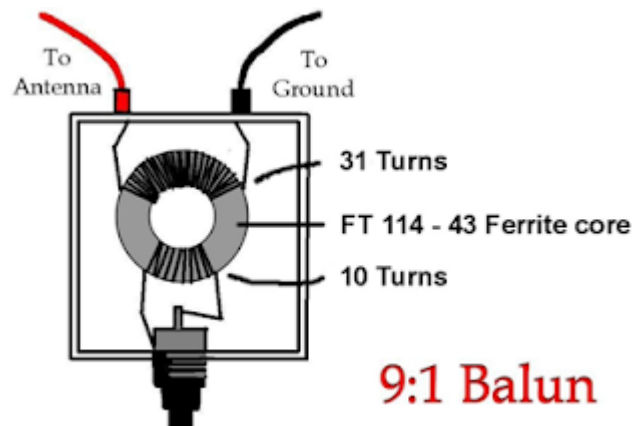
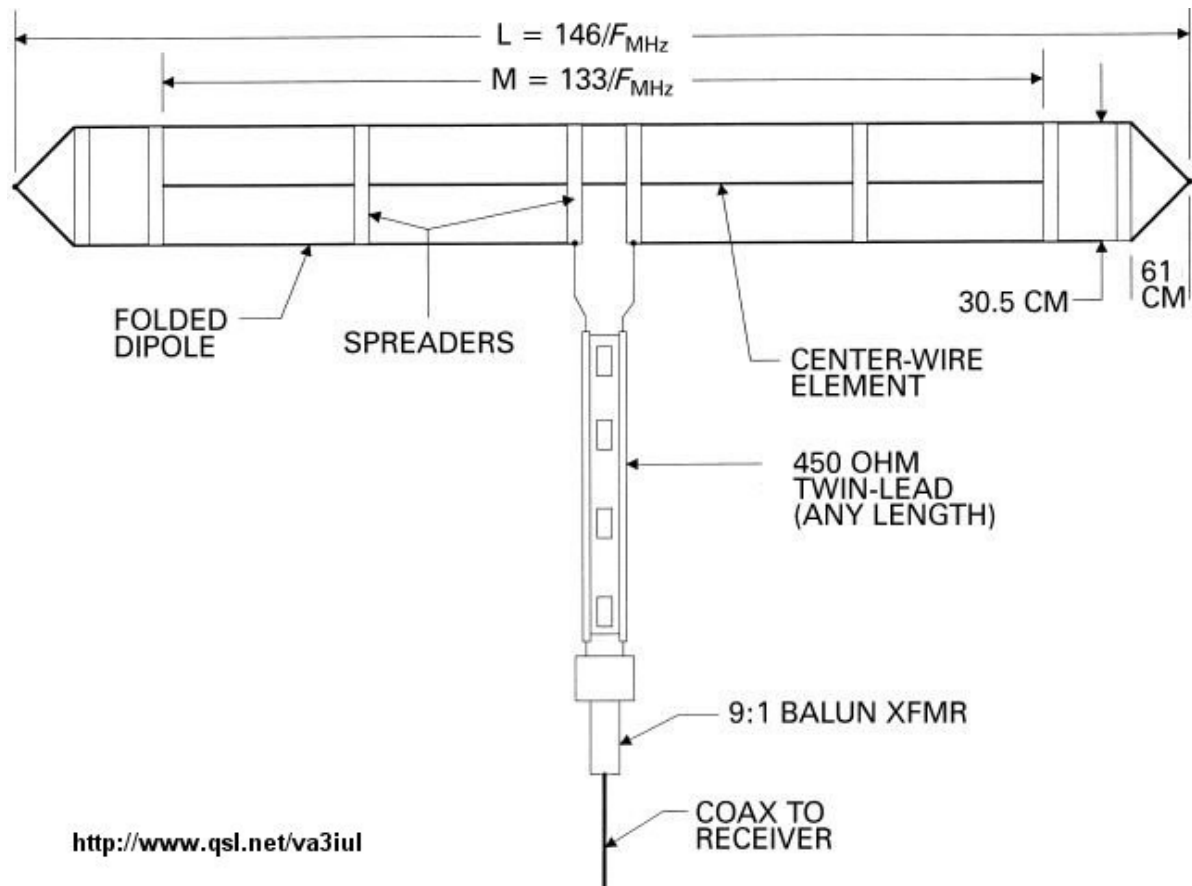
NEXT K9MCE MEETING APRIL 3rd 7:00 PM

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Made by: John KD8KVO 2nd by: Chuck N9LVY

Mark KD9EFO Presented a short overview of recent Alabama and Georgia storms with pics from GR Level 2 weather software

RON OCHU KOØZ presented on SSTV after the meeting adjourned.

Wideband Dipole Antenna



Antenna diagram from Iulian Rosu YO3DAC / VA3IUL, <http://www.qsl.net/va3iul>

9th Annual April Fools' Fest 2019

Ham Radio Flea Market and Convention

Saturday April 6, 2019

West Richland Center
IL-250 East, Noble, IL

Admission \$4
12-under Free

8am-Noon

Yaesu FTM-100dr Grand Prize ■ Tailgating ■ Hourly Prizes ■
Onsite Food Vendor ■ Indoor Table Space (\$5 ea.) ■ VE Testing

Directions:

From Flora, take US Highway 50 East 12 miles to IL Highway 250. Turn Northeast on IL 250 and follow this highway through Noble. The hamfest will be on your left on the east edge of Noble.

From Olney, take IL Highway 250 west 8 miles to Noble. The hamfest will be on your right as you come in to Noble.



Grand prize
FTM 100 DR



2nd prize FT 70DR

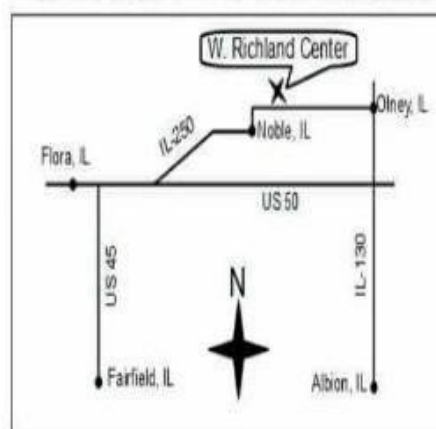


Free Onsite
Laurel VEC Testing

Anyone that passes their tech
during our Free Testing the day
of the Hamfest will be entered
to win a Yaesu FT-4XR HT!!!



Talk-In: 146.760- PL 94.8 (Noble 2m Repeater)



ClayCountyRadio@gmail.com ClayCountyRadio.webs.com
Facebook.com/AprilFoolsFest



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,





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 April 2019

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 <i>Lewis & Clark ARC</i> <i>K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7)</i> <i>W9VEY Memorial Net</i> <i>@8:30 pm, 146.820</i> 	2 <i>Old Capital ARC</i> <i>Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl,</i> <i>8:00 pm</i>	3 <i>Club meeting</i> <i>7 pm</i> 	4 <i>Macoupin County</i> <i>ARES Net, KO0Z net</i> <i>control 147.480 MHz</i> <i>simplex @ 8pm</i> <i>K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF</i> <i>Net Control, 444.250</i> <i>@8:30 pm</i>		
7 <i>Okaw Valley ARC</i> <i>Net@9:00 pm, 444.250</i> <i>K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9</i> <i>pm</i>	8 <i>Lewis & Clark ARC</i> <i>K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7)</i> <i>W9VEY Memorial Net</i> <i>@8:30 pm, 146.820</i>	9 <i>Old Capital ARC</i> <i>Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl,</i> <i>8:00 pm</i>	10	11 <i>Macoupin County</i> <i>ARES Net, KO0Z net</i> <i>control 147.480 MHz</i> <i>simplex @ 8pm</i> <i>K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF</i> <i>Net Control, 444.250</i> <i>@8:30 pm</i>		
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Macoupin County ARC
129 East First Street
PO Box 253
Carlinville, IL 62626-0253

Webmaster: Isaac
Pizzo WX9SRV

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



[https://
www.facebook.com/
Macoupin-County-
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