



K9MCE Officers:

- President: John Nalezty, KD8KVO
- Vice-President: Mark Lewis, KD9EFO
- Secretary: Paul Durand, KC9YCP
- Treasurer: Tim Coonrod, KC9HQA
- Trustee: Skp Riba, WS9V
- **Board of Directors:**
- Mark Osborn, WA9SXX
- Bill Ogle, W9FJ
- Jim Pitchford, N9LQF
- Skip Riba, WS9V (1 yr)
- Webmaster: Isaac Pizzo, WX9SRV

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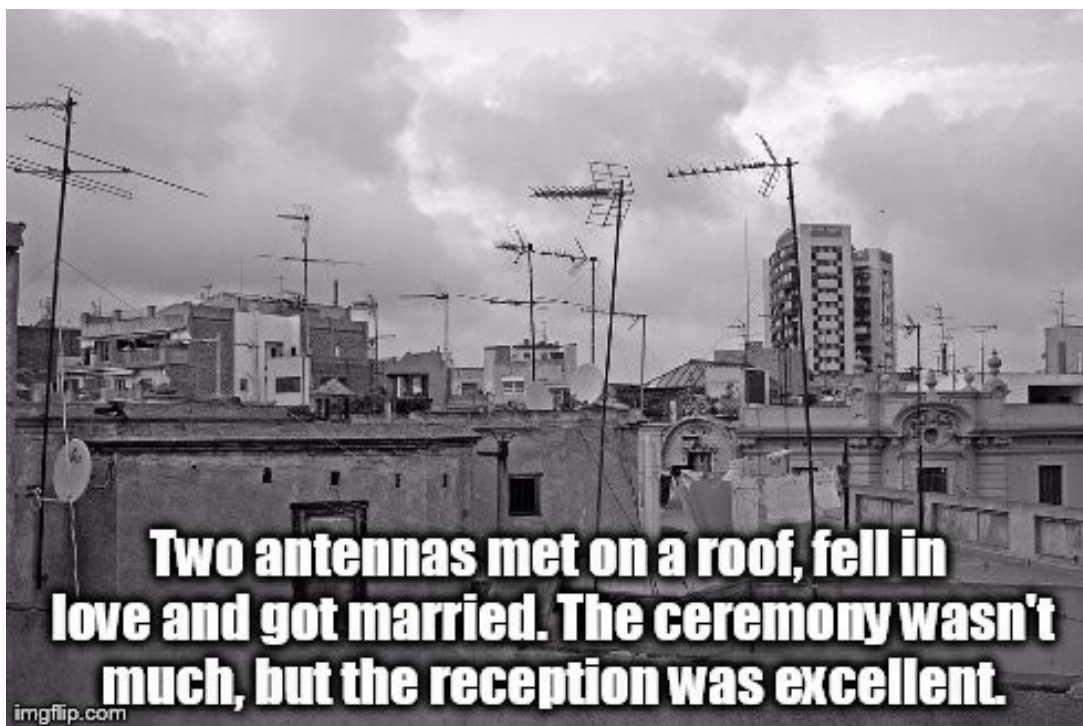
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K9MCE QSN

Volume 6, Issue 4

April 2018

K9MCE Club Meeting on Wednesday 4 April



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 4th. 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 has yet to be determined as of press time.

After the business meeting, FCC

VE testing is offered. Call Lou, K3ER 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.”***

Wayne, KC9ZYQ is in
EM58 and Dirk, W9OSI is
in EM49 and these gentle-
men 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.

Hamfest Planning Off to Good Start



Committee chairs are being filled and there's been two conference call meetings held between Macoupin County ARC, Montgomery ARFEC, Sangamon Valley ARC and Okaw Valley ARC. Sunday, March 25 club representatives meet in Litchfield to continue

hamfest plans. The four participating ham clubs chose Roger Whitaker, K9LJB and Vicky Whitaker, KD9BAU to serve as West Central Illinois Hamfest co-chairs.

A bank account is established to collect and to disburse ham-

fest seed monies and a budget was approved by the committee. Programs are shaping up. Tim Moloney, N9RRM will present a forum over his experience as one of the 50 ARRL/Red Cross hams that went to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria wreaked havoc. The ARCH helicopter will make an appearance at the hamfest and possibly the ITEC communications trailer will be there as well. Family activities are being planned and there will be QSL card checking. Saturday, August 4 is the date!

Montgomery County EMA Offers Damage Assessment Training

Montgomery County EMA Manager, Greg Nimo is making Damage Assessment Training available to any ARES members in Montgomery and Macoupin counties.

The training will take place in the Montgomery County EMA in Hillsboro on April 14 from 8 to noon. There is no cost to attend.

For more information, please contact Greg Nimo at

gregn@montgomeryco.com



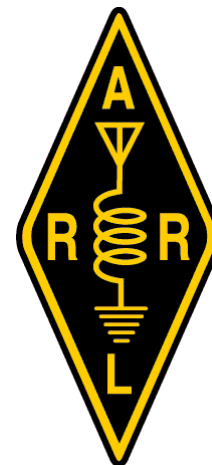
**"Damage
Assessment
training is being
offered to ARES
members"**

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





Macoupin County ARES to Meet

The next quarterly Macoupin County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) will take place on Saturday, April 28th from 10 am to noon at the Coffee Refuge House in Carlinville.

You need not be an ARES member to attend the meeting. Anyone with an interest in public service and emergency communication is invited to attend.

The agenda will include development and approval of an EAP (Emergency Action Plan), ARRL

ARES changes such as ARES Connect, a demonstration of digital mobile radio by Carlos, W9FE, Skywarn update and IDEN update.

All ARES members are strongly encouraged to take the free, on-line FEMA ICS 800, 700, 200 and 100. These courses form the backbone of FEMA and EMCom training. Successful completion of the course will result in a certificate.

Digital mobile radio is the future of amateur radio and Carlos will share his experience

with DMR including a WiFi Hotspot. This should be a very interesting presentation.

Severe weather season is almost upon us and ARES members are asked to take the lead regarding the Macoupin-Montgomery county SkyWarn net.

Skywarn drills take place at 8:15 pm every second Thursday of the month on the 146.82 repeater. Weekly ARES simplex nets can be found on 147.480 simplex every Thursday evening at 8 pm.

***“Dates
and times for
the 2018 run of
the VHF and up
Spring Sprints!”***

CSVHFS Spring Sprints



The Central States VHF Society is proud to sponsor and announce the dates and times for the 2018 run of the VHF and up Spring Sprints!

144 MHz: Monday, 4/09/18 from 7 - 11 PM local, Exchange: 4 char grid

222 MHz: Tuesday, 4/17/18 from 7 - 11 PM local, Exchange: 4 char grid

432 MHz: Wednesday, 4/25/18 from 7 - 11 PM local, Exchange: 4 char grid

Microwave, 902 MHz and up: Saturday, 5/5/18 from 8 AM - 2 PM local, Exchange: 6 char grid

50 MHz: Saturday, 5/12/18 from 2300Z until 0300Z Sunday, 5/13/18, Exchange: 4 char grid

Classes: Stations will be classified as either Single Op or Rover. A portable or mobile station that operates from only one grid is considered a Single Op station. A Rover must operate from at least 2 grid squares.

More information and rules are posted at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/home>

Macoupin-Montgomery County SkyWarn Program

Severe weather season is upon us and its good to know the following SkyWarn procedures for Macoupin and Montgomery counties.

When the National Weather Service issues a severe thunderstorm **watch**, Ron, KO0Z will notify Macoupin-Montgomery county ARES members by email of the impending storm. When the NWS issues a severe thunderstorm **warning**, the Macoupin-Montgomery county SkyWarn net will activate on the 146.820

repeater.

Net control will be looking for high wind reports, wind damage reports, heavy rain resulting in flooding such as street, intersection ponding, lightning damage, crop damage and tornado reports. Don't forget to include your name, call sign, location and time of the observation.

Reports gathered on 146.820 will be relayed to the NWS via Skip's WS9V linked repeater system.

Hopefully, everyone has taken a NWS Storm spotter course within the past two years. The NWS recently updated its course and it is very well done.

SkyWarn's mission fits in nicely with the NWS mission of having a weather ready nation.

Our purpose is to add additional eyes to the sky with trained spotters so as to give the NWS timely, accurate, ground truth observations for early warnings that can save lives. Remember, YOU are Skywarn!



Cycle 24 On The Decline

Figure 1, below, depicts the past two sun cycles and the one (Cycle 24) that we are currently in at this moment. Cycle 22 (1985 to 1997) Cycle 23 (1997 to 2009) and our current solar cycle (2009 to present) looks like it is beginning to bottom out.

Note that the two prior cycles have bi-modal peaks (two humps) as does Cycle 24. However with each progressive cycle the peaks have lower

values. Cycle 24 is half as strong as Cycle 22 and about a third less than Cycle 23.

Many solar pundits predict that Cycle 25 will be even smaller than the previous three solar cycles.

So what does that mean for ham radio operators. Well, betting hams will place their bets on the lower bands for better propagation. 160-30 meters will be the best DX

bands. 20 meters will still be good, but not as good and for as long during the day as in prior cycles.

Currently solar pundits are wondering how long will this solar cycle take to bottom out and how long will it take Cycle 25 to ramp up? Will 25 be lower than 24? Will Cycle 25 ramp up quickly, take longer or will it even ramp up at all?

Time will tell the tale.

***“Will Cycle 25
be lower than
previous cycles?
Will it ramp up
quickly, take
longer or will it
even ramp up
at all?”***

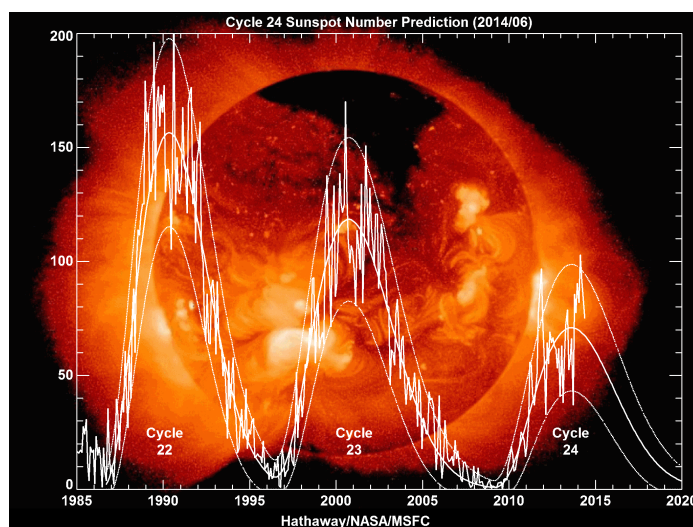


Figure 1

MINUTES - K9MCE ARC March MEETING

Submitted by Paul Durand KC9YCP- Secretary

March 7, 2018 - Macoupin County Board Room-Sheriff's Complex.

Meeting called to order by President John Nalezty KD8KVO @ 7:00 pm.

Officers Present: President John Nalezty KD8KVO, Secretary Paul Durand KC9YCP.

Directors Present: Bill Ogle W9FJ, Jim Pitchford N9LQF.

Other Members Present: Lou Bartels K3ER, Mark Kerlikar WD9HBF, Mike Graham K9MDQ, Carlos Arzuagas W9FE, Vicky Whitaker KD9BAU, Roger Whitaker K9LJB, Tim Coonrod KC9QHA

Guest: William Mack (here to take a test)

Jim N9LQF asked for a minute of silence in honor of Charlie Ritter's KB9OXH passing.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes was made by Jim N9LQF and seconded by Carlos W9FE. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Tim Coonrod KC9QHA reported that the club treasury balance was \$7,026.52, after contributing to a memorial fund for Charlie Ritter KB9OXH. The club received a Thank you card for the donation. Tim also said the club received a charitable r from the State. Tim said Charlie's passing required the club to add a replacement trustee for banking purposes. Lou K3ER nominated Mike Graham K9MDQ, seconded by Paul KC9YCP. Motion carried. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Roger K9LJB and seconded by Vicky KD9BAU. Motion carried.

1. West Central Illinois Hamfest: Jim N9LQF reported that a conference call would be held at 2 p.m. on the 11th with the primary goal to get all the different chairperson roles filled. He also said the Hamfest had been approved and sanctioned by the ARRL.
2. Field Day – Co-Chairs: Mark Kerlikar WD9HBF, Jared Stumke KC9ZMD. Mark WD9HBF reported that a letter had been sent to the Mt. Olive board to request use of the park again. Jim N9LQF had also sent a letter.
3. K9MCE Website Committee: Isaac Pizzo KC9NJW was not present.
4. VP of Emergency Communications: Chair: Jim Pitchford N9LQF had nothing new to report.
5. Emergency Communications Report on ARES in Macoupin County: Chairman Ron KO0Z was not present.

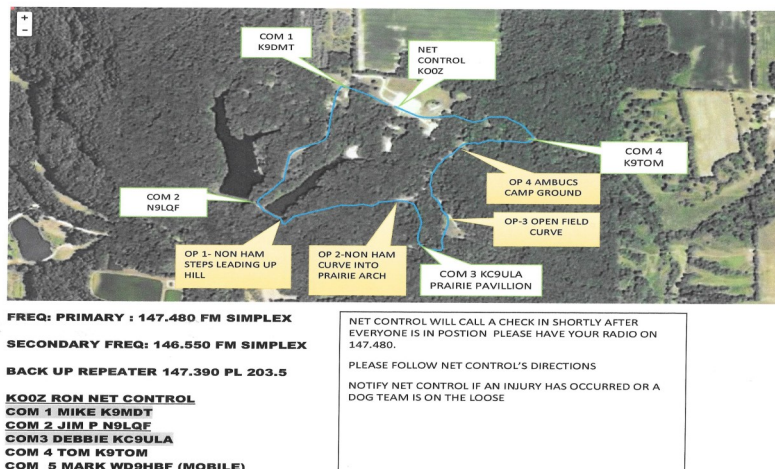
Old Business: None.

New Business: Vicky KD9BAU said she planned to petition the Governor to make June Ham Radio Field Day month using K9MCE letter head. This has occurred in the past.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Lou K3ER, seconded by Jim N9LQF. Motion approved.

Tonight's Program: Paul KC9YCP gave a presentation on the free Linux based computer operating system called Ubuntu. He has used Ubuntu for 4 years and has found it to be reliable and secure. He recommends its use over Windows without hesitation. If you aren't sure about it, you can even install it so that it runs side-by-side your Windows OS. There are logging programs and other ham radio programs that are compatible with Ubuntu. Roger K9LJB and Vicky KD9BAU had even more experience with Linux based OS. They have found the OS called Mint to be even more flexible than Ubuntu but having a similar look and feel. Mike Graham K9MDQ was also a proponent and user of Ubuntu. Paul passed out an article from the ARRL web site written by Bert Kolts AB0VI www.arrl.org/ubuntu-linux-for-hams.

We Came, We Saw, We Communicated!



Communications map for the Podesta Big Timber Dryland Dog Race. This map depicts the 1.62 mile course. The 2.3 mile course would have wound around the west side of the lake.

Saturday, March 24, the alarm clock rang, but I was already awake listening to the rain pelt my QTH. Not a comfortable day to be outside, but folks were counting on me. The outside thermometer read 34 degrees, a rain driven wind from the east pelted the mobile. In a word, today could be best described as, "crappy." Still, Debbie, KC9ULA and myself were on our way to the Podesta Big Timber Dryland Dog Race at Rhodes France Scout Reserve southeast of Pana, IL to assist K9MCE club member, Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF with public service communications.

There wasn't a lot of notification for this event. In less than three weeks, plans were made to provide communications for the dryland dogsled event. Complicating the planning was the ever changing dynamics with the event organizers. Mark, WD9HBF spent countless hours on the phone and repeatedly making the 60 mile trip to Pana to assist with this event and communicating the changes to his communications team. Trying to assist Mark, Ron, KO0Z put out the word to the ARES and club members that this short notice will give us good preparation, but a variation on an old adage came to mind, "Many are called, but few show up." In spite of these challenges, a workable plan was hobbled together and thanks to Jim, N9LQF bringing commercial HTs, four non-hams were ready to assist us with communications.

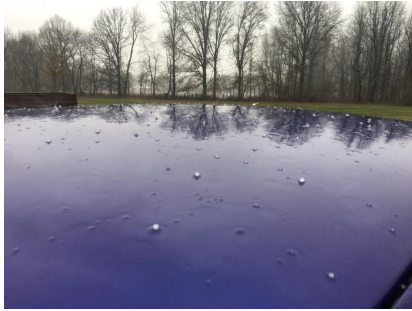
In all fairness, challenges were to be expected because this is the very first time, an event of this nature and magnitude has been hosted in our area. To further complicate things, Mother Nature wasn't cooperating. Rain, cold temperatures and wind makes for a miserable time. Still, K9MCE members Mark-WD9HBF, Jim-N9LQF, Debbie-KC9ULA, Ron-KO0Z and fellow amateurs Mike-K9DMT and Thom-K9TOM braced themselves for a day of dogsled racing. K9MCE member, Chuck-N9LVY wanted to participate, but double pneumonia kept him side lined. Original plans called for the racers to follow a 2.3 mile course, but the muddy conditions shortened the course to 1.62 miles. Over sixty entries, many from out of state, registered for this event!

At 8:30 am, race officials decided to postpone the event to Sunday. The trail was muddy, the rain pelting and at one point there was even hail. We felt bad for the dogsledders. Some came as far away as New York and Canada for a 2.3 mile race. Fortunately, the racers were not upset. Evidently, this racing season has been fraught with rain, so they fully expect delays and changes and accept them as part of their sport. I thought hams were a crazy lot; well we need to step aside for the dogsledders. These folks are bullet-proof!

To be perfectly honest, I didn't mind the race being postponed. I'd rather be in my warm QTH. Yet, I knew that Debbie and I along with Jim, Mike and Thom along with Chuck, in spirit, had set aside our weekend to assist our friend Mark and his dogsledding buddies put on a big event that benefits the dogsledding community and the Boy Scouts of Lincoln Trail Council. That is what public service is all about. What a perfect way to let another dedicated, enthusiastic, sportsmen experience what amateur radio can do for an event. In effect, we were living the Boy Scout motto of, "Be prepared."

Continued on page 8

We Came, We Saw, We Communicated! Continued



Hailstones at the event. WD9HBF photo.

Rain is one thing, hail is another. The photo on the left shows hailstones at the event outside of Pana. The photo on the left is the where the race begins at the scout camp.



Orange fencing marks the dogsled race entrance. KO0Z photo.



Muddy, rainy, cold conditions at the dogsled race. KO0Z photo.



Amazing, the difference 24 hours can make! KO0Z photo.

Sunday, May 25 what a difference a day can make. Instead of rain, at dawn, pink, red and purple morning cloud cover greeted the sun and it began to clear up. Still, the temperature was at the freezing point, but we're hams and we're up for the challenge. On my way out to Pana, I was looking forward to not one, but two cups of McDonald's coffee (to sustain me for the first few hours) and a sausage, cheese and egg McMuffin. In my backseat I had packed some healthy goodies for lunch. When I was about ten miles out from Pana, Jim gave a shout on the repeater. He just got through fixing breakfast, in the center of the universe (Nilwood) for his Aunt Ernie and he was now on the road. Mark, WD9HBF was already on site making preparations.

Muddy, rain swollen creeks were beginning to drain off and for the most part, roads were dry. A big change from yesterday. I arrived at Rhodes France Scout Reservation with plenty of time to spare. I set up very close to the starting chute, but out of the way of the race participants. Since this was the first time for this event, no one was quite sure where I needed to be situated, but I knew I needed to be near the activity center, close to race officials but otherwise out of the way.

I found a good spot near the chute, next to, but upwind from the porta potties, close to the activity and I had good com with all com team members. I would be operating out of my car. I'm out of the elements, I have a high gain antenna, cell phone com, data spreadsheets, and plenty of food and water. I have the easy job. It's the ops out on the trail, braving the elements, that have the hard job.



I've arrived to the dog sled race! KO0Z photo



The starting line chute. KO0Z photo

Mark, WD9HBF was our designated "floater." Mark was on an ATV and if a snow fence needed repairing he'd go and fix it. If an op with a commercial radio needed another battery, Mark was on it. He gave support to the ops providing support. That worked out quite well. On Sunday five hams assisted with communications: Mark, WD9HBF; Jim, N9LQF; Ron, KO0Z; Thom, K9TOM and Mike, K9DWT. Thanks to Jim, N9LQF bringing commercial HTs, Mark was able to supply five non-ham race volunteers with radios to assist with communication support.

There were 8 races on Sunday and I learned that the cross country track was fast. Competitors would complete the course in less than ten minutes. As net control, I want my team to be engaged, so I asked everyone to report when a team went by their location. Since we had 8 communications positions along the course, about every minute an op was reporting back. It was a challenge to jot down all the reports back to me. I didn't realize that the course would be covered so quickly! Those dog teams are fast! It became apparent to have just three ops report back and the others report in only if there was a mishap. That worked out much nicer. Race officials enjoyed having the real time reports.



Net control's position



Upwind from the porta potties



Racer in the chute! KO0Z photos

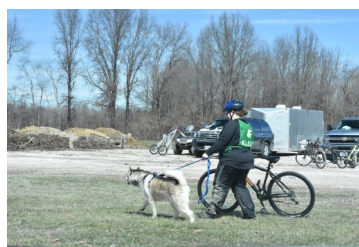
All of the operators did a fine job of staying on location and giving reports. For the non-hams, it didn't take too long to figure out the proper way of holding a HT and simplex operations. A few times we had open microphones, but things went smoothly and integrating commercial radios with amateur radio was almost seamless. As net control, I'd relay any commercial radio traffic to the hams and vice-versa. That way, I knew ops were on line and not bored and we had a good idea of race status.



4 dog sled passing by Jim, N9LQF's position near the lake. N9LQF photos.



Even a modified wheel chair acted as a sled in this competition! KO0Z photo



Dogs even pull bicycles in this event. KO0Z photo



When it comes to emergencies or public service events, many of us think that we're prepared and if that time comes, I will step up to the plate. The truth is we are never as prepared as we'd like to think. These events challenge us to improve our skills, to actually test our preparedness in a less stressful environment. Best of all, new friends are made and we provide a needed service that showcases amateur radio. These volunteers make a difference because they are involved!

Mike, K9DMT and Thom, K9TOM, Com 1 and Com 4 KO0Z photos



Afterwards, a big celebration is held

IDEN In Macoupin County

Winlink Express – It's Working!!!

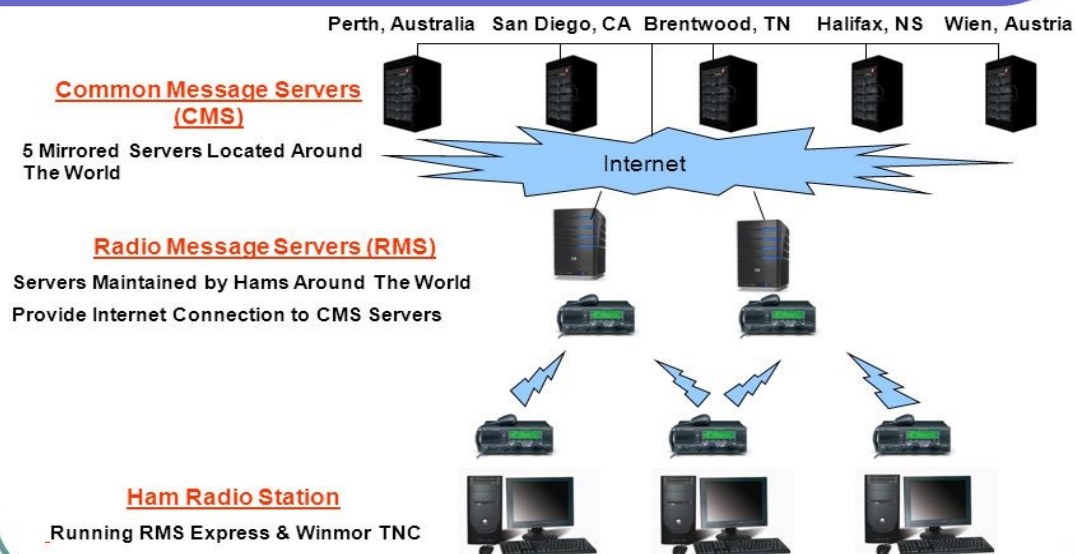
Well, after almost a month of trial and error and experimentation with the hardware and software to get Winlink Express working, I'm here to report we are finally there!!!

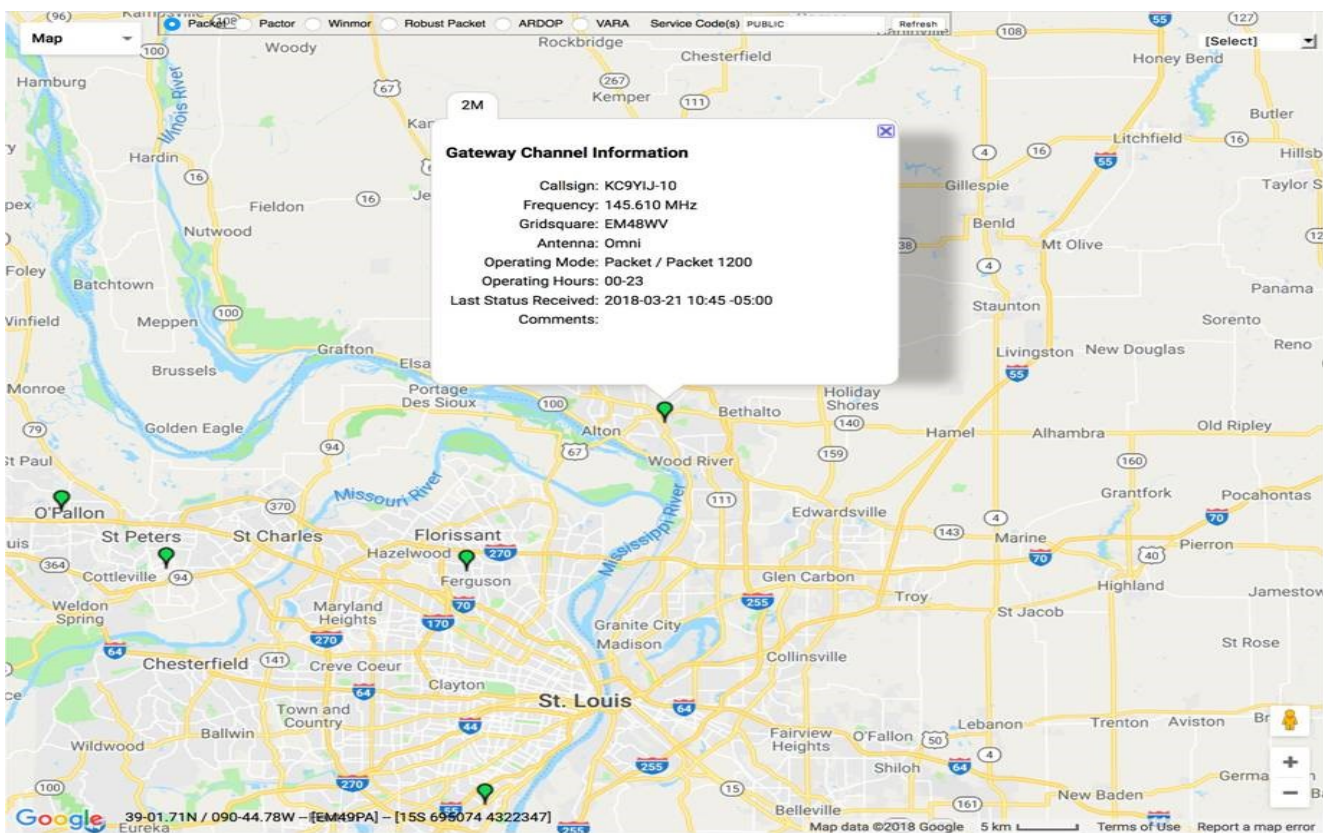
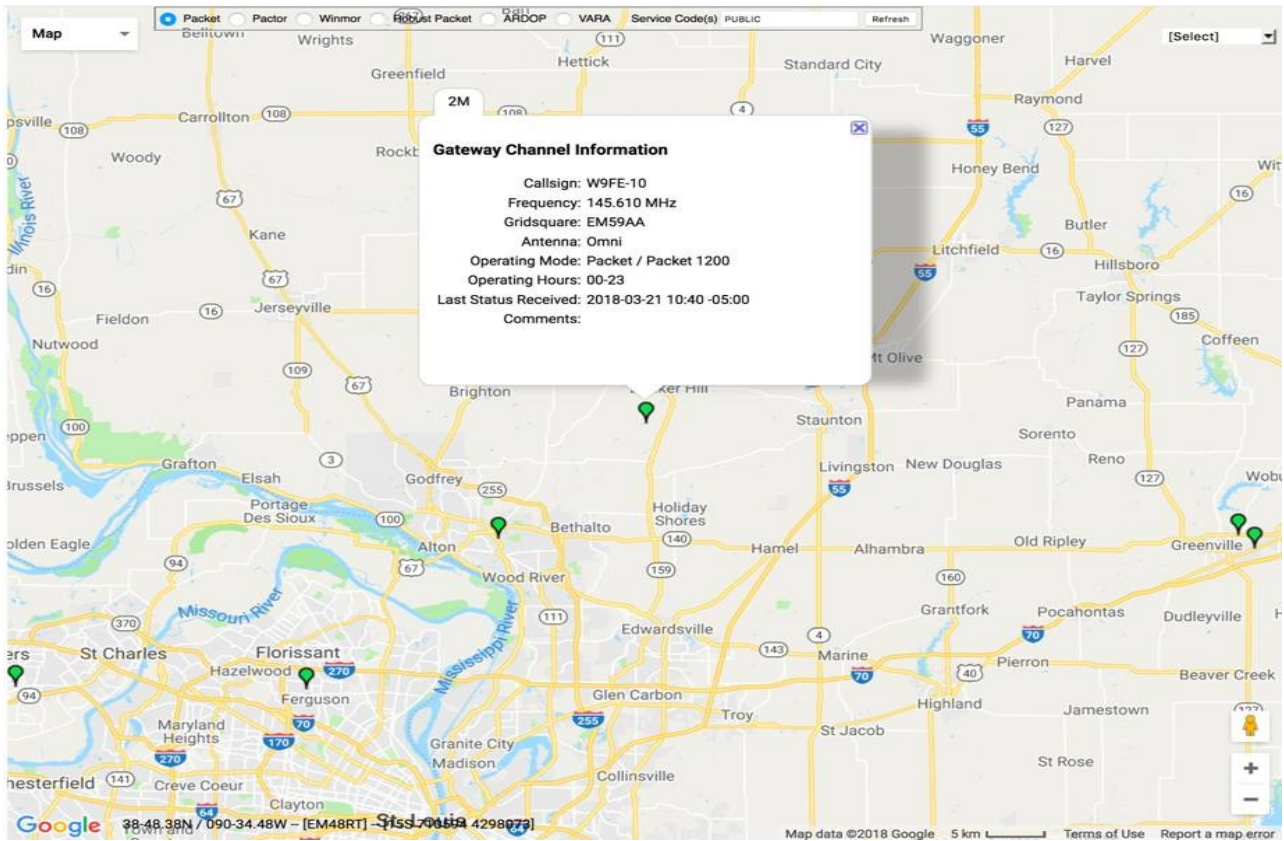
Mark (KC9YIJ), Carlos (W9FE), and I (K9JDN), with advice and direction from Bob (AA9FQ), embarked on the challenge to get Winlink Express up and running on VHF/UHF and to understand how it worked. If you need a refresher course on what Winlink Express is, follow this link: <https://www.winlink.org/WinlinkExpress>.

After many hours of testing, with support from folks like John King (W9KXQ) and Jim Hudson (WB9QPM), I can honestly report that IT IS WORKING! Mark and Carlos took the lead to implement the necessary hardware/software to support the gateway stations necessary to transfer electronic emails between people like you and me (end users) to the Internet when there is NO Internet access in the local area. Essentially, we have put together an alternative way to email your family and friends, whenever Internet access is unavailable from your computer, cell phone or tablet. I suppose you could call it, "wireless email transportation for the last mile." In general, it is accomplished with radios, TNCs, and laptop computers! Of course, there are a multitude of different solutions you can implement, based upon a combination of hardware/software and how much you want to spend.

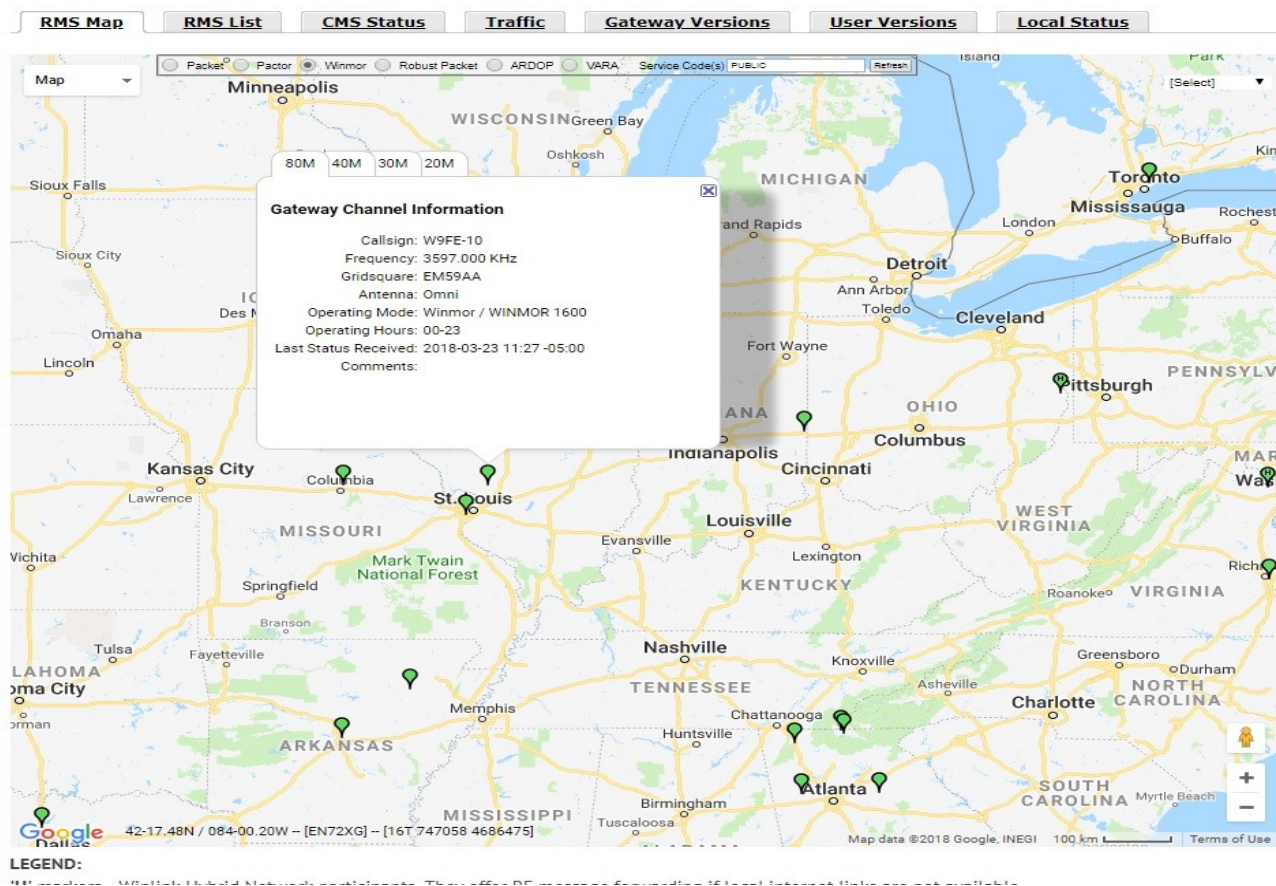
We took the challenge of getting this working, because in the State of Illinois there is currently an effort underway to get Winlink Nodes/Gateways in all 102 counties of the state to support a statewide emergency digital communications network for disasters. This effort has been dubbed, IDEN (Illinois Digital Emergency Network), and is being supported with the donation of old State Police radios that have been taken out of service. A group of amateurs are modifying these radios for the amateur VHF band and distributing them to individuals for implementing Nodes/Gateways in their respective county. Within the next month or so, I hope to get a slideshow presentation put together documenting our journey. In addition, we want to have a demonstration of how all of this works and how you can get involved in supporting your local ARES and EMA organizations with "Winlink Express" expertise. If we get it together before the Hamfest, maybe we can demo it there for folks! Stay tuned....

Winlink Messaging System





Live System Information



WinLink protocol using IDEN

Format isRADIO Freq Mode Filter

Example:

ATTACH 4

RADIO 14.110 USB 2

C CALLSIGN

If you call different stations on different frequencies, but want to return to listening on a single frequency after making a call, enter just that frequency in the scan list. I am currently scanning the following HF frequencies, Mode, and Filter.

(Frequencies are Center Frequencies, not dial frequencies)...

3.597 USB 2

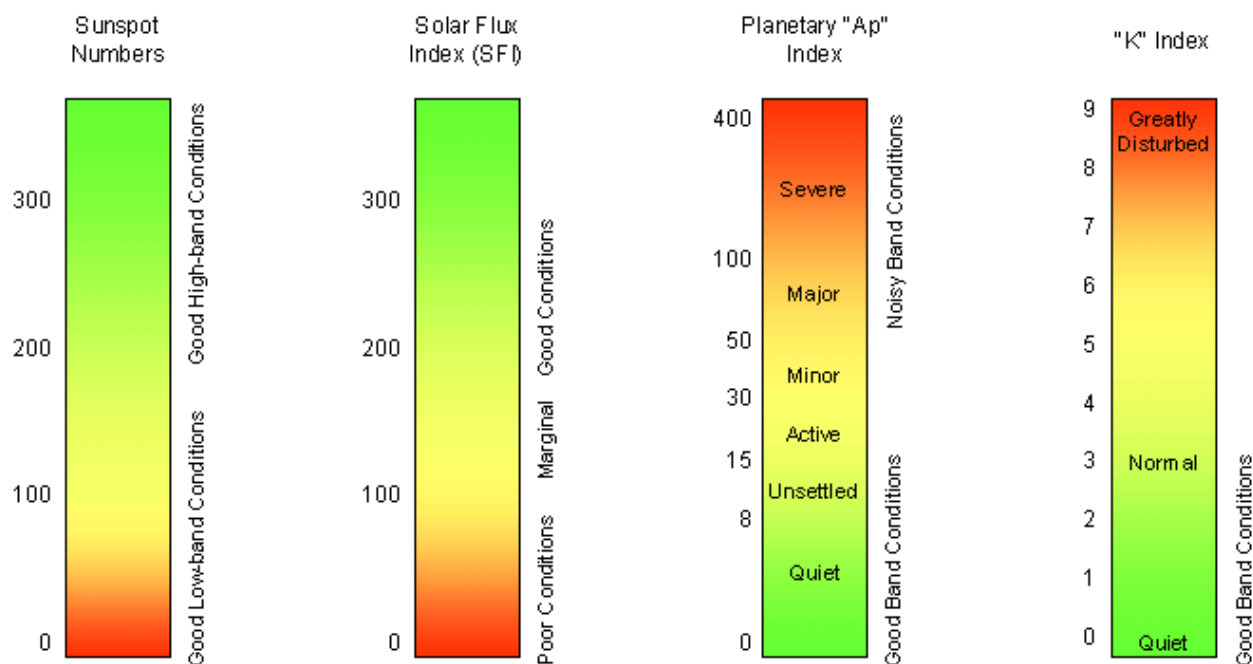
7.104.5 USB 2

10.142 USB 2

14.098 USB 2

Hope this helps on using the HF Winmor Gateway through the VHF Node.

SPACE WEATHER: SOLAR INDICIES CHART

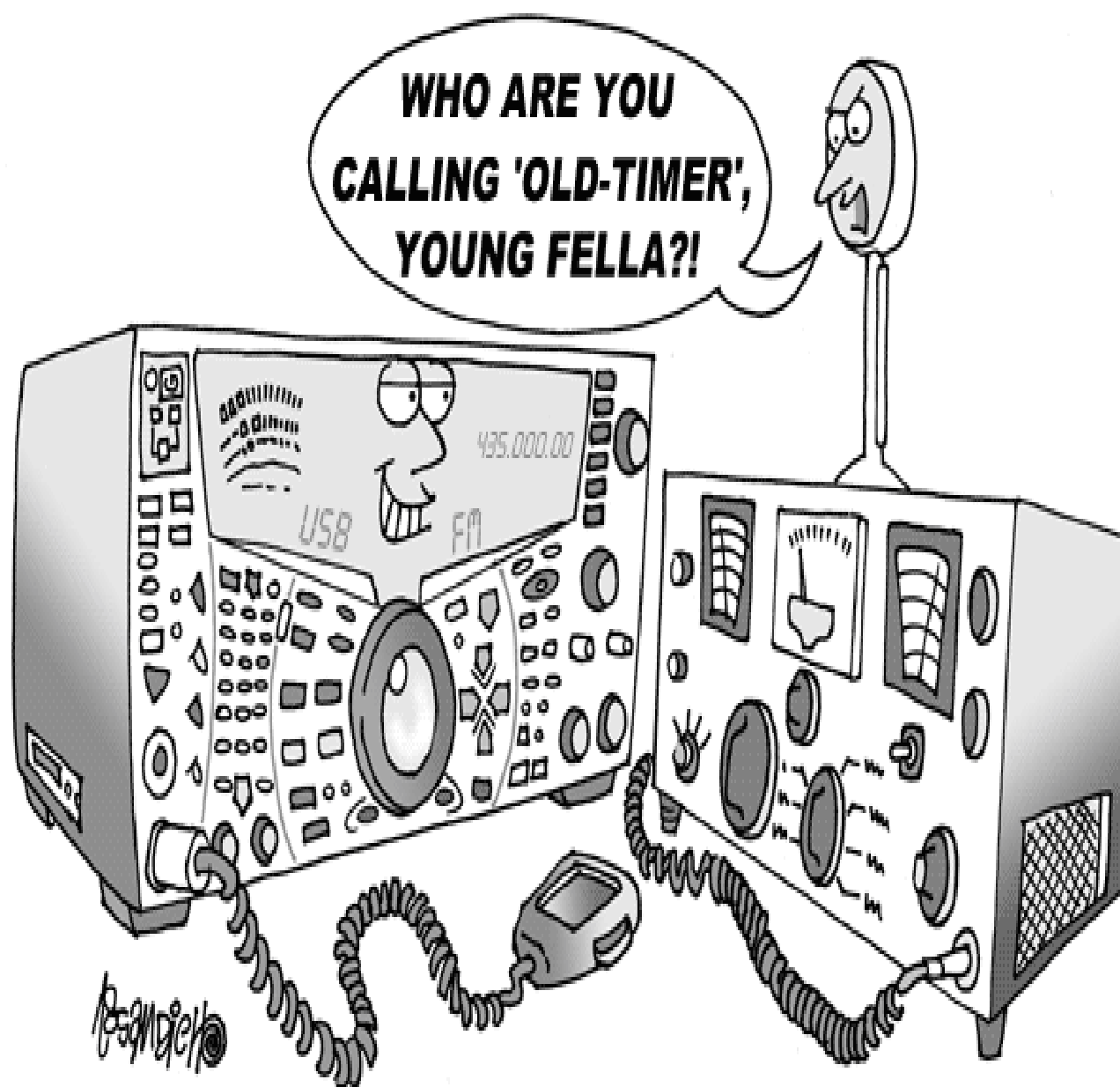


The number of sunspots is a measure of magnetic activity on the sun's surface, which roughly correlates to the ionization of the ionosphere. More is better.

Solar Flux Index (SFI) is a gauge of solar particles and magnetic fields (solar wind) reaching Earth's atmosphere. Higher numbers are better.

The A index (linear scale) is published daily, and is made up of the eight K indices over 24 hours. The Planetary A index is the average over several locations on Earth.

The planetary Kp is the mean standardized K-index from 13 geomagnetic observatories between 44° and 60° northern or southern geomagnetic latitude (quasi-log scale).



Congratulations to Skip, WS9V on his latest achievement!



Illinois ARRL Section Manager News By Ron Morgan — AD9I



Follow us on Facebook at Illinois Section--American Radio Relay League!

Your Illinois Section News is located at <http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/illinois>

Peoria Academy, PAARC participating in high altitude balloon launch.
PAARC is partnering with Peoria Academy, Peoria, IL to launch a high altitude balloon. Weekly classes on payload building have begun and will continue through the week of April 9. The 15 students have selected their experiments and are reviewing their scientific methods, and determining outcomes for each of the experiments.
Launch of the balloon will occur sometime April 12-20.

Pearl Technology STEM Camp, June 18-22, 2018

The STEM Academy is sponsored and put on by Pearl Technology, with the assistance of the University of Illinois Extension, Richwoods Township, Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois, Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club, Peoria Heights High School, volunteer Caterpillar engineers, and ISS Above Software.

Twenty-five middle school students will spend June 18-22 attending the STEM Academy held at Goodwill Commons, where they will learn about space and radio communications. The students will build Raspberry Pi computers that stream live video from the ISS. Students will also participate in a high-altitude balloon launch by building the payload with student experiments and then, use radio telemetry to track the balloon to near-space. The highlight of the academy will be when students communicate directly with astronauts on the International Space Station. The ISS contact itself will be open to students of all ages in the local area. Stay tuned for additional information in the coming weeks.

Fritz Bock

WD9FMB

The Western IL ARC invites all amateurs to a special event to celebrate 2018 as the Bicentennial for the State of Illinois. To showcase Illinois amateurs during 2018, WIARC, in addition to the ILQP, proposes:

<http://www.w9awe.org/Challenge.html>

WIARC will coordinate with other IL stations as "Activators" to put all 102 counties on the air multiple times during the period August 26, 2018 through December 3, 2018 (including October 21, the day of the ILQP).

Both during ILQP and during the rest of this period, activations will be coordinated through the ILQP Reflector <http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP%20Reflector.html>. "Activators" are encouraged to post plans on the reflector, and a weekly update of "Planned Operations" will be maintained on the WIARC page (link to follow).

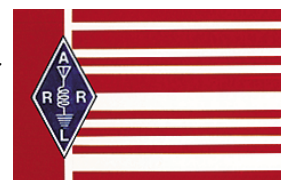
"Activators" will upload Cabrillo or Excel log files (with the required QSO information: template available at <http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html>. Check the "Sample Log" tab at the bottom of the page.) Outside of the ILQP period, "Activators" are encouraged to append their calls with "/IL200" to indicate they will be uploading their logs for the event.

"Chasers" will attempt to contact all 102 counties during this period and will submit contact information on either the Excel template or .txt template provided on the ILQP website (link to follow). Both "Activator" and "Chaser" logs should be sent as attachments to n9jf@arrl.net no later than December 10, 2018.

Chasers who successfully contact all 102 counties will receive a special Bicentennial Challenge certificate.

Reach out to your membership to see who would be willing, during the period August 26, 2018 through December 3, 2018, to be "Activator Stations" for the Bicentennial Challenge detailed in the above link.

While home station activations are welcomed, we are going to need operators willing to do portable or mobile activations in order to make less-populated counties available multiple times. Activations at various times of the day and week and on various bands and modes will be needed.



Only by involving a large number of amateurs from around the state can we make it reasonably possible for stations to achieve working all 102 counties! Contacts during the 2018 ILQP (Oct 21) will automatically be registered from submitted logs. If you have questions or comments, please contact the club through n9jf@arrl.net.

See <https://illinois200.com/events/the-illinois-bicentennial-challenge-award>.

73, Jim N9JF

Affiliated Club Registration and Renewal - Noah Sevcik K9BZY has set up a link to allow one place for clubs to get registered. There is a link here to do the paperwork.

2016 Illinois Interoperability Field Operations Guide - This manual is updated every two years and is available for download in the files section of the Section News.

Cabinet Members

SM/AD--Ron Morgan AD9I

ASM--Mike Nowack NA9Q

ASM--Scott DeSantis KB9VRW

ASM/STM Roy R Eades KA9MZJ

ASM--Sean Travis W9STR

SEC--Fritz Bock WD9FMB

OOB/AD--Tim Childers K9CQ

PIC -- Vicky Whitaker KD9BAU

SGL -- Charlie Richey K9DUE

ACC -- Noah Sevcik, K9BZY

TC--John Dinnella WA9IL

ASEC--Robert Littler W9DSR

ASEC--Danny Pease NG9R

ASEC--Garret Robinson KC9FVK

ASEC--Pat Ryan KC6VVT

ASEC Pat Stowell, N9PN

ASEC--Curtis Williams W5DTR

Congratulations to Ron, AD9I for being re-elected as IL Section Manager!



8th Annual April Fools' Fest 2018

Ham Radio Flea Market and Convention

Saturday April 7th

West Richland Center
IL-250 East, Noble, IL

Admission \$4
12-under Free

8am-Noon

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

Directions:

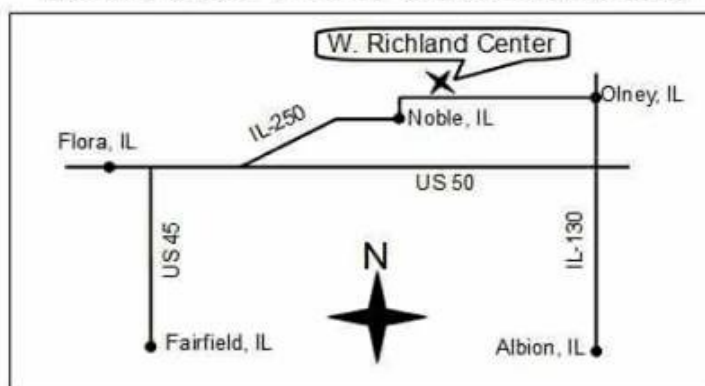
From Flora, take US Highway 50 East 12 miles to IL Highway 250. Turn Northeast on IL 250 and follow this highway through Noble. The hamfest will be on your left on the east edge of Noble.

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



Featured Vendor
Amateur Accessories

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



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



WELCOME TO
LEWIS AND CLARK RADIO CLUB
 P.O. BOX 553
 GODFREY, IL. 62035
K9HAM
 ESTABLISHED IN 1985

2 METER NET MONDAYS
 20:00 CST, 02:00 UTC
 145.230 (-600) PL 79.7

LEWIS & CLARK RADIO CLUB 2018 HAMFEST

SATURDAY – APRIL 21, 2018 - 7 AM to NOON

**LOCATION: "RIVERBEND 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

Tickets

Advance \$4 or 3 for \$10 – At Door \$5

PRIZES: 1st \$150 – 2nd \$100 – 3rd \$50

**Drawing at Noon - Dozens of Door Prizes
 You Need Not Be Present for Cash Drawing**

**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 - ADA Accessible - Free Coffee & Donuts

**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.**

38°57'07.0"N 90°11'46.1"W 38.951950, -90.196140

Once you are on campus just look for the signs directing you to the LCRC Hamfest.



Visit our Web-site: www.k9ham.org Talk-In Will Be On K9HAM Repeater 145.230(-) PL 79.7



Egyptianfest 2018

June 10 2018

7am—Noon



Holy Family Catholic Church 2600 Washington Ave Granite City, IL

The Best little Hamfest in the Midwest

Many vendors, lots of fun, friends, and food

Tickets \$5 in advance, \$8 at the door, additional raffle 6 for \$5

First prize \$300 second \$200 third \$100

Hourly door prize drawings



Tables \$12 for the first table \$10 for each additional table

Tailgating available for \$10 a spot

ARRL VE Testing at 9am

Food by Dennis KM9O

Website W9AIU.ORG email Bob AA9FQ@ARRL.NET

Talk in 146.76 pl 141.3 146.79 pl 127.3

**ONLY
200 RAFFLE
TICKETS
BEING SOLD**



\$10 PER TICKET

**ICOM IC-7100 HF PLUS 6m / UHF / VHF
WITH D-STAR**

Intuitive touch screen interface.
Easy-to-see, easy-to-use slant top controller.
Built-in high efficiency oval speaker.
D-STAR DV mode digital voice and low speed
data communications.
505 memory channels.
SWR graphic display.
Built-in SD card slot for voice storage and data
cloning.
Built-in RTTY functions.

**INCLUDES A
HEIL HM-22 GENESIS
WIDE RESPONSE
MICROPHONE**

The Egyptian Radio Club is the third oldest
amateur radio club in the country.

In 2019 we will celebrate our 90th year

The Egyptian Radio Club would like to thank

Holy Family Catholic Church for their

Graciousness and hospitality.

SCARC HAMFEST

2018

WHEN

August 12th, 2018

8am-12pm Vendor Hall Open

6am-12pm Flea Market



WHERE

Elks Lodge--O'Fallon, MO

1163 Tom Ginnever Ave. 63366

Lat 38.822739N, Long -090.667931W



TICKETS

**\$3.00 each or
4 for \$10.00**

Backup Freq:

145.33

Talk-in Freq:

146.67(-)

DOOR PRIZES

1st \$300*

2nd \$200*

3rd \$100*

PLUS Great HOURLY GIVEAWAYS

WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN*

Check our Website for updates
and other scheduled activities.

WB0HSI.org

For more info contact Renee Simon KD0OTG

636-978-8422 akaqb@charter.net

Food and Beverages Available

Free Parking | Handicap Accessible

Visit the SCARC store to buy tickets & tables

[squareup.com/market/st-charles-amateur-radio-club inc.](http://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-
ning, 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

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

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



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

K9MCE April 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Okaw Valley ARC <i>Net@9:00 pm, 444.250</i> <i>K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm</i>	2 Lewis & Clark ARC, <i>K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7)</i> <i>W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820</i>	3 Old Capital ARC, <i>Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm</i>	4 K9MCE Club Meeting, <i>7 pm, Macoupin County Sheriff's Office.</i> <i>Pre-Club meeting Reno's Pizza at 5:00 pm</i>	5 Macoupin County <i>ARES Net, KO0Z net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm</i> <i>K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm</i>	6	7 Montgomery Cnty <i>Damage Assessment Class</i>
8 Okaw Valley ARC <i>Net@9:00 pm, 444.250</i> <i>K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm</i>	9 Lewis & Clark ARC, <i>K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7)</i> <i>W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820</i>	10 Old Capital ARC, <i>Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm</i>	11	12 Macoupin County <i>ARES Net, KO0Z net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm</i> <i>K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm</i>	13	14
15 Okaw Valley ARC <i>Net@9:00 pm, 444.250</i> <i>K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm</i> <i>ARRL Rookie RU-SSB</i>	16 Lewis & Clark ARC, K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7) <i>W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820</i>	17 Old Capital ARC, <i>Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm</i>	18 World Amateur Radio Day	19 Macoupin County <i>ARES Net, KO0Z net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm</i> <i>K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm</i>	20	21 Lewis & Clark <i>Hamfest</i>
22 Okaw Valley ARC <i>Net@9:00 pm, 444.250</i> <i>K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm</i>	23 Lewis & Clark ARC, K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7) <i>W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820</i>	24 Old Capital ARC, <i>Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm</i>	25	26 Macoupin County <i>ARES Net, KO0Z net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm</i> <i>K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm</i>	27	28 Macoupin ARES, <i>10 am , Coffee Refuge House, Carlinville.</i>
29 Okaw Valley ARC <i>Net@9:00 pm, 444.250</i> <i>K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm</i>	30 Lewis & Clark ARC, K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7) <i>W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820</i>					



Thursday: Macoupin County
ARES, 147.480 @ 8:00 pm
Thursday: Macoupin County
ARC Net, 444.250 @ 8:30 pm.

3.905 MHz.

Nets