

# St Clair Amateur Newsletter

April 2020

PO Box 94, Belleville, IL 62222

[www.scarc.net](http://www.scarc.net)

Club Repeaters: 147.120+ / 224.120- / 444.625+(pl 127.3) / 442.275+ (pl 127.3)

## Club Officers

President – Randy Bastian  
KC9MZ (618) 235-1444  
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Vice Pres – Michael Petz  
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Secretary –Tip Klamberg  
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Treasurer - Bob Thurgood  
WA9TUG (618) 239-9847  
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Sgt at Arms - Dan Campos  
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Activity Mgr- Jim Morgan  
KD9BLA  
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**VE Test Coordinator**  
Randy Bastian, KC9MZ

**Repeater Committee**  
Randy Bastian, KC9MZ  
Michael Petz, KA9HNT  
Gary Valentine, N8GIL - emeritus,  
John Sundstrom, WAOLIS -  
emeritus

**Emergency Comm Committee**  
Curtis Williams, W5DTR

ARES/RACES Directed Net is normally conducted by Gene Kramer, WA9TZL (Tuesdays following the Club “on-the-air” meeting.)

## Lee B Uhley Sr. WA9MMM, SK

April 28, 1936 – April 27, 2020

I'm sad to report the passing of Lee, WA9MMM, at age 84. Lee was a member in the 1960's. Lee was a long time employee of Dechant Electric, a two-way Motorola sales and service shop here in Belleville. He continued with St. Louis Electronics when they bought the Dechant dealership. After his retirement from two-way radio, Lee worked as an independent contractor delivering the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. Lee enjoyed people and was always sharing stories about his work or other activities. Lee helped many local hams with tower work and built a very nice shack for him and his wife Helen; she passed her Novice License in the late 1970's. I believe he is survived by a son and daughter.

73 to you Lee, Mickey Mouse's Mother.

Thanks to Dave, K9ZHN, and Karl, K9BGL, for this information.

## Election of Officers

January started the process for election of club offices. If you would like to nominate someone or run for offices yourself, please let the Sergeant at Arms, Dan, KD9ADB know. The current slate of nominees is:

President:	Randy, KC9MZ
Vice President:	Michael, KA9HNT and Jim KD9BLA
Secretary:	Steve, W9ZS
Treasurer:	Bob, WA9TUG
Publicity Activist:	Dan, K9JDW
Sgt at Arms:	Dan, KD9ADB
Activity Manager:	Jim, KD9BLA

Still postponed due to CV-19.

## For Sale

Kenwood TS-450 and Astron RS-30 power supply.

This transceiver is very clean, original box, manuals. I've tested the output on each band and its 100 watts or so. Audio sounds good on station receiver. This rig does not have the auto tune unit.

The Astron power supply has a broken rocker switch which selects volts or amps on the built in meter.

It looks like the Kenwood was bought to replace a malfunctioning Ten-Tec and never used. The owner went into a Home, both \$450.

Astatic D-104 amplified microphones, one is Silver (\$65, very clean) and the other has a black (\$55, some paint chips on the base) base and head. Both have 5 pin connectors.

These are all estate sale items.

Call Randy, KC9MZ, 618-235-1444, or email [jlr.bastian@norcom2000.com](mailto:jlr.bastian@norcom2000.com) if interested.

## Operating Events and HAMFESTS:

Hamvention QSO Party 1200Z-2400Z May 16<sup>th</sup>

Egyptian Radio Club EgyptianFest 2020, June 14<sup>th</sup> has been canceled. (Their web site stills says it's on.)

ARRL VHF Contest, June 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 1800Z Saturday through 0259Z Monday, see [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

ARRL FD, June 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

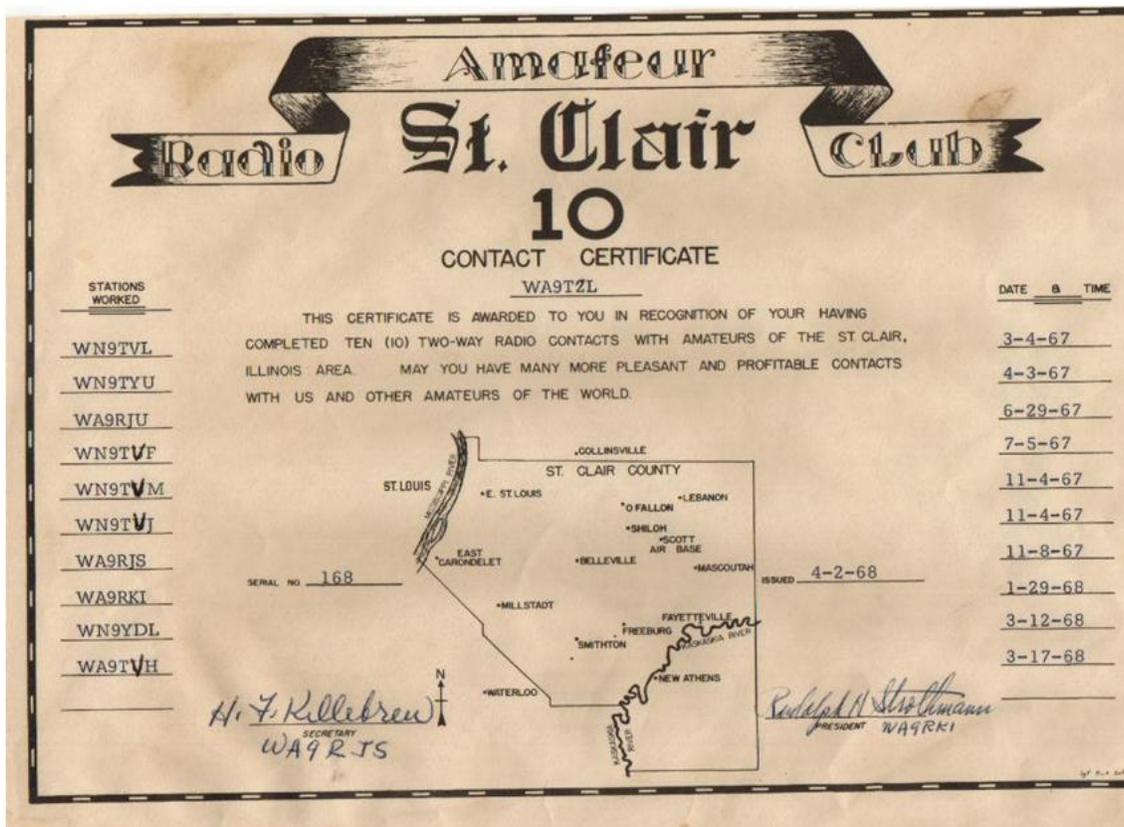
West Central Illinois Fest Carlinville, Il August 1<sup>st</sup> [www.k9mce.com](http://www.k9mce.com)

St. Charles Amateur Radio Club Hamfest August 9<sup>th</sup>, O'Fallon, MO [www.wb0hsi.org/hamfest](http://www.wb0hsi.org/hamfest)

CWops Test (CWT) Every Wednesday at 1300-1400Z, 1900-2000Z, and 0300-0400Z 28 to 45 kHz from the band edges

**Meeting Date, Time and Location:** Next month's meeting will be on May 28<sup>th</sup> and it will be an "On the Air" meeting. Check-ins start at 8 pm CDT. **Note: Governor J. B. Pritzker has ordered shelter in place until May 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**New Members:** New applications should be submitted to the Sgt. at Arms. Applications will be vetted by the Sgt. at Arms and will be brought forward for a vote at the next monthly meeting after being submitted. We look forward to meeting/greeting any new member because to grow our club, we must find people that love to talk (should not be too hard) and that would love to be on the radio. So putting the two together can make a dedicated enthusiast for HAM Radio. We welcome all new members and prospective members and thank them for their interest in Ham Radio.



Gene, WA9TZL, shares a memory with us: I ran across this on one of my “old” PC files. The club issued these certificates if you made 10 contacts with other SCARC members. I had just gotten my General Class License in 1968, so I made the contacts in 1967 during my “1 year” Novice period on CW with my Knight T-60 transmitter and Star Roamer Knight receiver (both kits), then the AM contacts when I built the Heathkit HW-30, I believe, two meter AM rig.

I thought this might bring back some early SCARC memories and the eagerness for new Hams to get this important “award”!

### Here are some shorts:

Our “On the Air Meeting” held on April 30<sup>th</sup> had approximately 25 check-ins. One of the discussion topics was FD. If you want to participate, please let me know.

Thanks, Gene, for sharing your memories. Some of those calls on the certificate bring back memories for me!

**Dues became due January 1<sup>st</sup>**, please see Bob, WA9TUG. Bob has said there are quite a few members who haven’t paid their 2020 club dues. Please help support your club and pay your dues! Bob said you can mail them to our PO Box 94 or to his home address: 5 Seven Iron Court, Belleville, Illinois, 62220. Thank you.

I’m attaching some information from the ARRL about canceled events and upcoming FD.

Don’t forget the “Good Morning Net” M-F, 7-8am by Larry, K9LWW and the 224.12 MHz Net on Thursdays, 7 pm by Steve, W9ZS.

Hope to hear you on the air.

Remember to send anything you might have for SCAN to [kc9mz@arrl.net](mailto:kc9mz@arrl.net).

73 es gud dx,

Randy, KC9MZ

Dean, K9JDW, has some FD ideas:

In keeping with the latest from the ARRL, I was thinking if members are interested that we could do one of the following:

1. Move to an alternate non-public location (like Richs place maybe), and employ social distancing through the use of RVs, trailers, tents, etc. If we go this route we need to start thinking about the logistics. (For instance I would plan to bring my A-Frame trailer, and stay through the entire period.)
2. We could operate from separate remote locations, coordinating operation via the repeater or text messages through a "SCARC FD Net Controller". I'm not sure how ARRL will view it though as it does not adhere to the 1000' rule. We could pose the question to them if we are interested in doing it that way.
3. We could do a combination of both.

These options would allow us to observe the spirit of FD, overcoming obstacles and communicating during contingencies. If we decide to proceed with FD as a club by any approach, I will prepare the log program and instructions to allow everyone to log separately in a consistent format so that I can merge the results for submission.

Thoughts?

Dean  
K9JDW

### **VE testing is postponed**

The ARRL VEC sent the following information via the ARRL Members Only Web site. (Thanks to Larry, K9LWW)

Here are answers to some the questions that have been asked about League operations and future League activities.

Several members have inquired about the possibility of remote monitoring of VE Testing. The Alaska VEC does perform remote testing with proctors monitoring by online video. However, the Alaska VEC uses at least one proctor present at the testing location. With the current guidance of social distancing there are discussions on how a test could be administered completely by remote. The ARRL VEC has been developing an all-electronic method of testing but that is not ready for use. The Board and staff are expecting that no immediate change is possible under the circumstance but there are discussions within the Board of possibilities that are being explored.

Volunteer Examinations and the ARRL VEC

Due to the orders in place by the State of Connecticut, the VE office is closed with nobody in the building. The following information is provided by Mr. Barry Shelly, N1VXY, the ARRL CEO.

Processing existing test sessions that have been submitted through our e-file web page and are transmitting those to the FCC for processing. The FCC is functioning and processing normally so far.

Any sessions that had been mailed to HQ but not received by this past Monday (3/23) are not being processed because no one is at HQ to process them.

Exams are being processed from sessions where the VE teams have the ability to scan and send PDF documents to ARRL VEC.

Filing individual and club license changes and renewals that are emailed or phoned in directly to VEC continues as are the renewals which are forwarded from circulation staff and HQ staff.

The ARRL VEC office is unable to processing test sessions which had been sent via mail since Monday (3/23).

Paper exams are not being sent out because no one is in the office to do so. These limitations are due to the edict of the Governor of Connecticut.

Also, the VEC office cannot process credit cards or checks until they are back in the office.

VEC functions that can be done remotely are ongoing.

Field Day email from Kermit Carlson, W9XA, Central Division Director, via Curtis, W5DTR:

Dear Central Division Member -

There have been many suggestions for changes to the rules for Field Day-2020 on account of the present social distancing requirements. Below is today's message from the ARRL HQ's Contest Manager, Paul Bourque, N1SFE that explains a change to the listing of club names for Field Day participants. ALL participants will have that participant's club name associated with their listing.

73, Kermit Carlson W9XA  
From the ARRL NEWS;

04/22/2020

This year, ARRL Field Day promises to be a unique iteration of this annual event, with many individuals and groups coming up with new and interesting ways to adjust their approach. As an event, Field Day is structured to be versatile and can be adapted for any situation.

Many groups have asked how they can adjust their Field Day planning to address social-distancing guidelines that may be in effect in many areas of the country, as gathering at their traditional Field Day site may not be feasible or safe. Instead of participating in a group event this year, consider operating as a Class B, C, D, or E station, utilizing your own call sign.

ARRL will include club names for all participating stations in the published results, so the efforts of your club's members can be acknowledged. While we will not publish an aggregate club score, seeing the name of your club associated with various individual member's results is certainly a way to highlight your club's activity.

Myriad opportunities are possible in this year's Field Day setting. These are just a couple.

Consider having an intra-club competition among members, seeing who can make the most contacts during the event. You can award prizes or distribute certificates at a club meeting. This can be a fun way to bolster the activities of individual club members, even though they cannot all gather together at the same location this year.

Set up a Field Day Challenge with rival clubs in neighboring communities. See how many members of each club get on the air from their own stations and participate in the event. In addition to "bragging rights," perhaps certificates to the top-scoring individual entries in each category can be presented as part of this inter-club camaraderie.

One club is planning to conduct its Field Day as a 4A club group, with participants spaced to comply with social distancing guidelines within the required 1,000-foot diameter circle and operating individual stations. This club also plans to set up a "Get on the Air" (GOTA) station. The club's plan is to have the GOTA coach at the Field Day site, while GOTA operators participate via remote link.

Another club is planning to set up a remote-controlled station at its usual Field Day site, with club members taking turns controlling the station from their homes. The club is developing a schedule that outlines when each member of the club will be at the helm via the remote link.

Whatever approach you take to this year's Field Day, keep up to date with the current guidelines issued by local and state health agencies that may impact your proposed operation.

ARRL invites your stories about the interesting and creative ways you're planning to use to adapt your Field Day operation. Share these on the ARRL Field Day Facebook page.

For the latest news and updates, visit the Field Day webpage. —

Thanks to ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE

## Field Day 2020 — A Time to Adapt

<http://www.arrl.org/news/field-day-2020-a-time-to-adapt>

03/27/2020

Many individuals and groups organizing events for **Field Day** 2020 have been contacting ARRL for guidance on how to adapt their planned activities in this unprecedented time of social distancing and uncertainty.

“Due to the unique situation presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, and/or group to try something new,” ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said. “Field Day isn’t about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances.”

Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how — and even whether — you are able to participate in Field Day this year. ARRL continues monitoring the coronavirus situation, paying close attention to information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)). If social distancing means that Class A with a 30-member team set up in a city park won’t work this year, then it’s time for a Plan B. Part of the Field Day concept has always been adapting your operation to the situation at hand. At its heart, Field Day is an emergency communication demonstration. Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals and groups to adjust their participation and strategies in a way that still addresses their needs while being fun. Some possibilities:

- Encourage club members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).
- Use the club’s repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.
- Family members interested in operating Field Day and unable to participate as part of a larger group may want to consider setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna.

One big impact this year will be a decline in public visibility and any interaction with the visitors. Prudence may dictate dispensing with the ham radio PR table to attract passersby, should you set up in a more public location. It’s okay not to score all the bonus points you may have attempted in the past. Local and served agency officials may be unwilling to visit, which is understandable under the circumstances. Do be sure to reach out to them as part of your preparations and remind them that you look forward to continuing your working relationship with them in the future.

The impact will differ from place to place, so ARRL recommends that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day stay in regular contact with local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities.

Demonstrating an understanding of the health crisis we all face and your willingness to adapt will show that you and your club or group are good working partners with local or served agencies.

“With any emergency preparedness exercise, it’s not about adapting the situation to your operation, it’s about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself,” Bourque said. “Try something different. Learn something new about how you prepare. It may be a challenge, and you may have to ask yourself if you’re up to the challenge. We hope to hear you on the air over the June 27 – 28 weekend.” — *Thanks to Paul Bourque, N1SFE, and Dan Henderson, N1ND*

Please patronize our supporters!



An email from Larry, K9LWW

This came to me as a VE and I thought it would have gone to all VEs... I will send it to all our club VEs. If I missed someone, it is because I don't have their email address, so please forward if you can...

*Larry Wessels, K9LWW*

*29 Whiteside Dr.*

*Belleville, Illinois*

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From: ARRL Members Only Web site <[memberlist@www.arrl.org](mailto:memberlist@www.arrl.org)>  
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 11:50 AM  
To: [lwessteach@msn.com](mailto:lwessteach@msn.com)  
Subject: ARRL during the COVID-19 Shutdown

Dear ARRL Central Division Member;

The challenges that we now face are significantly different than anything our modern world has previously encountered. Over the past week we have fielded a number of emails with questions and suggestions about the ARRL and amateur operations. The most important advice that we can offer is to please follow the directives of your local health professionals and government authorities. On account of the orders of the Governor of Connecticut, the ARRL Headquarters has closed. All HQ operations are being conducted by remote with the staff working from home. Other than one or two people occasionally at 225 Main Street, the halls are empty.

We do want to express our sincere thanks to the members of our Headquarters staff for keeping the lights on, even if by remote. This shift in operation was arranged with little warning and has provided an ongoing continuity through the diligent efforts of dozens of dedicated HQ staff members.

Several members have inquired about the possibility of remote monitoring of VE Testing. The Alaska VEC does perform remote testing with proctors monitoring by online video. However, the Alaska VEC uses at least one proctor present at the testing location. With the current guidance of social distancing there are discussions on how a test could be administered completely by remote. The ARRL VEC has been developing an all-electronic method of testing

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#### Hamfests -

If your group or club is postponing or cancelling a hamfest please email Eric Casey, KC2ERC, at [ecasey@arrl.org](mailto:ecasey@arrl.org) with the updated information. To view hamfest and event cancellations, visit

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.arrl.org%2FcanceledHamfests.php&data=02%7C01%7C%7C0962159fc3fe4ffb507b08d7d3381de3%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637210110271711049&data=ioef5ZX2K3qlugayr3B6ZvV8BySKcY70Gp%2BEENmVmVE%3D&reserved=0>

#### Field Day -

There are no rule changes to those rules that were posted two months ago. A posting yesterday on the ARRL Web site answers most questions about the upcoming Field Day 2020.

Please have a look at;

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.arrl.org%2Fnews%2Ffield-day-2020-a-time-to-adapt&data=02%7C01%7C%7C0962159fc3fe4ffb507b08d7d3381de3%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637210110271711049&sdata=Oga1alnK6Tmu7li%2BsA4YHTiCFSTOfnukBTdAAhAbyg4%3D&reserved=0>

The concept is to work with whatever situation exists this year in June. The Field Day-2020 will be different because of this extreme situation, but it will be held.

DE N1VXY, ARRL CEO -

The following message was sent from interim ARRL CEO Barry Shelly, N1VXY, and was authored by ARRL Director of Operations Norm Fusaro, W3IZ;

Here at HQ we have received lots of communications from our members either asking for guidance or offering suggestions during the current crisis. We hope everyone is adhering to CDC and local health department guidelines by staying home, maintaining safe distances when around people, and following sanitary practices.

With many hams staying home there are opportunities to get on the air and call CQ or gather around the local repeater. We certainly do not need a reason to get on the air, after all, that is what hams do.

In terms of ham radio preparedness, this current crisis has not disrupted communications on a national scale. We know many of our members practice and train for a personal radio communication capability that can be called on when disaster strikes. ARES volunteers and our partners in providing emergency communications already routinely monitor the information and requests from Emergency Coordinators and the like. Station and skills readiness are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service and this current crisis has not changed this.

We can encourage members to remain safe, and to follow the guidelines and requests of their national and local government officials and public health leaders. For those members who are healthy and safe at home, we can encourage them to get on the air:

Get on the air. As online fatigue and a feeling of isolation will inevitably creep into our new normal being on-air will introduce variety into our communication practices. As many of us are now housebound or working and studying from home, turning on a radio to connect with your ham radio peers will be a welcome respite!

Radio Clubs. Think of this current challenge as an opportunity to encourage our club members to get on the air. Move (short) meetings to the club repeater, and encourage check-ins. Organize skeds, nets, and challenges. Try different bands (HF, VHF, UHF ) and modes. This will also help new radio amateurs gain practical operating experience.

Readiness. Station and skills readiness are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service. Any time we spend on the air will contribute to developing and practicing our personal radio communication capability.

If you are a radio amateur serving your community through the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) or by volunteering with any of our partners in providing public service communications, thank you. ARES members routinely monitor the information and requests from their ARES

Emergency Coordinators. We are grateful for all the ways you stand-ready to support the emergency service personnel in your communities when disaster strikes.

.... DE N1VXY

The amateur community is filled with examples of hams helping hams, with health and wellness check-ins and extra nets being held on the local repeaters. We would like to mention that this is also a time to explore the possibility of conducting an online video conference meeting in place of the local in-person meeting. Several of us have been living a daily work life on Zoom and email, but one does adapt to the lack of "personal" contact. Please remember to take care of your neighbor and fellow amateur. The recommended social distance is 2 meters, but our contact can be as close as 2 meters, or any other band you choose. For instance, the Illinois ARES net on 3905 at 1200 Central has become a health and wellness daily net. Now is an excellent time to find new friends and old acquaintances on the air.

Take care and stay well,

73, Kermit Carlson W9XA  
Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

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ARRL Central Division  
Director: Kermit A Carlson, W9XA  
[w9xa@arrl.org](mailto:w9xa@arrl.org)

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