

St Clair Amateur Newsletter

September 2017

PO Box 94, Belleville, IL 62222

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
Cell (618) 973-6379
kc9mz@arrl.net

Vice Pres – Michael Petz
KA9HNT (618) 688-2050
ka9hnt@gmail.com

Secretary -Garry Valentine
N8GIL 618-257-2276
glvalentine@charter.net

Treasurer - Bob Thurgood
WA9TUG 618-239-9847
wa9tug@arrl.net

Sgt at Arms - Dan Campos
KD9ADB 618-236-1509
daniel.campos@charter.net

Activity Mgr- Jim Morgan
KD9BLA
highonharmony@gmail.com

VE Test Coordinator
Randy Bastian, KC9MZ

Repeater Committee
Gary Valentine, N8GIL,
Randy Bastian, KC9MZ,
John Sundstrom, WAOLIS -
emeritus

Emergency Comm Committee
Curtis Williams, W5DTR

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

2017 Eclipse



Photo by Steve Westlund, W9GZZ

My family and I all piled into our Chevy Equinox and headed south to Chester about 11 am. We chose Chester because the eclipse would have 2 minutes and 40 seconds of totality. Traffic was pretty bad on Route 15 through Freeburg, and I worried that we were getting too late a start to make it in time. However, once we hit Baldwin Road, we were in the clear the rest of the way to Chester. I had my 2 meter rig in the vehicle and checked into the ARES net, talking to Gene a few times to report traffic conditions. The K9GXU repeater sounded great and had amazing coverage most of the way. It wasn't until we got just outside of Chester that the signal finally faded. We pulled into a Hardee's restaurant near the Popeye statue in the center of town, had lunch, and prepared to be amazed.

The photo shows the view from Chester at 1:20 PM, just before the end of totality. I shot the photo with my Panasonic DMC-FZ200 digital camera with the sensor set at ISO400 through a Leica Vario-Elmarit lens at F2.8 and shutter speed of 1/125 second. The camera was mounted on a tripod. I did not have a solar filter, so I was unable to take any partial eclipse photos. When totality set in, and I came to my senses (what a visual impact!). I swung the camera around, zoomed in, and began shooting. This is my favorite frame because light of the sun turned the right edge of the moon reddish, giving it a three-dimensional effect. How exciting!

Steve

W9GZZ

ARES Solar Eclipse Operations August 21, 2017 from an ARES Perspective.

The 2017 August 21 Solar Eclipse was first brought to the attention of the Emergency Management Agencies throughout the U.S. as it concerned "unknowns" about :

Cell phone disruptions due to mass streaming video taking bandwidth due to users overload of cell towers.

Concerns over traffic congestion beyond the point of traffic flow stopping and persons placing themselves and others in danger on the roadways.

Weather conditions involving heat whereby traffic stalls would entail potential dangers to young persons in cars and the inability to have medical response arrive in time due to traffic congestion.

As a member of SCARC and ARES EC for St. Clair County, I was in contact with the HF net known as SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Network) to monitor issues from this Nationwide traffic net, starting with the State of Washington and then as the eclipse came closer to Missouri/Illinois. This information from 14.2650 Mhz was given to Region 8 IEMA.

The St. Clair County ARES net activated through the K9GXU repeater and both HF CW and relay on VHF was performed with SIU-C with their special event activities, which also provided crowd information and departure data to pass to IEMA for IDOT to prepare for departure traffic. County EMA and Region VIII IEMA were very grateful for the support communications provided by the County ARES® operators and the SCARC VHF repeater to obtain the data.

Summary brief submitted to County EMA per attachment.

Sincerely,

Gene WA9TZL

St. Clair County ARRL ARES® EC

St. Clair Co. RACES - KC9NPN Aux Com

SCARC member since 1967

Arecibo Radio Telescope, Puerto Rico

September 22, 2017 5:31 PM EST

Hello All,

Steve Floyd and I just had contact with Angel on 14.258 MHz. Angel is having problems with generator and can only make very short transmissions.

Here is the latest which is all good news:

The HF Facility Dipole Array at the bottom of the dish is OK. All the dipoles are OK.

The Bachelor and Family units up on top of the hill are all OK (Amazing !!!! since they are old and wood).

The Optical Lab building on top of the hill at the Observatory lost a roof. That is all we know about that.

Steve Floyd said Angel will be on again at 1PM and 6PM EDT tomorrow.

The Director is also trying to get a satellite phone to the Observatory but is having a lot of trouble with the roads.

The Guajataca Dam is imminently going to break some said and was reported before 70,000 were asked to evacuate. Angel said that will be bad for the Arecibo town too.

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/22/us/puerto-rico-guajataca-river-dam-evacuations/index.html>

That is it for now.

Keep all the people in Puerto Rico in your thoughts since it is going to be very rough.

Jim Breakall WA3FET

Penn State

On 9/22/2017 4:32 PM, Jim Breakall wrote:

Hello All,

Thanks so much to Steve Floyd for updating everyone on the status of Mike and Bernadette Sulzer and also the latest from Angel Vazquez.

Here is a link to a National Geographic report on the latest from the Observatory from Nadia Drake, daughter of Frank Drake.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/09/arecibo-radio-telescope-damaged-puerto-rico-hurricane-maria-science/>

We hope to have more info from Angel tonight at 6PM if his generator will work as reported from Steve Floyd.

We still need to find out the status of the HF dipoles, the Bachelor and Family Units, and the Optical Facility.

I am sure there are more things we will try to ask about too.

Thanks, Jim Breakall WA3FET

Penn State

(These are emails that were forwarded to me that originated from Bob Zimmerman, NP4B, ex WA9ZSF. Bob is from Dupo, IL, attended SIUE, and worked at Arecibo for Cornell University when Cornell managed the facility. Bob has friends and family on the island and asks for our prayers for Puerto Rico. Ed.)

Hurricane Support Communications

For those interested in the emergency in the Caribbean and Puerto Rico in particular, Gene, WA9TZL, sends us this information:

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network, presently on 14.265 MHz, has given the following information concerning the communications with Puerto Rico:

A group of Amateur Radio Operators have an internet site now set up: CEWN.ORG to obtain further information and this same group has established two dedicated frequencies for communications with those that have emergency power in PR and they are:

7.188 MHz and 3.815 Mhz.

Per AG6SV, SATERN Net Manager

FYI- cewn.org is an EXCELLENT site as it relates to amateur radio communications in affected area of Hurricane Maria.

I am a member of SATERN, but I have been off the air the last several days due to a death in the family.

Gene - WA9TZL

St. Clair Co. ARRL ARES EC

(Gene, you and your family have our sympathy on the loss of your brother Ed.)

Meeting Date, Time and Location: This month's meeting will be on September 28th at the Belleville Fire House #4. The meeting starts at 8:00PM. Many start to gather at 7:30PM. Hope to see you there....

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.

Want Ads...For SALE /Trade/ Give away...?

Yaesu FT-897 with LDG FT-Meter, in original box. Works FB, \$600, local pickup. Mike Cornwall, KB9WQJ, call Mike at 618-977-5537 or email at mccornwall@charter.net Pictures available upon request.

1952 MG TD replica on a VW chassis. (I don't know if this is a British Coach Works replica but, you can go here: http://www.caroholic.com/BCW_Information.htm to see what this looks like.) Call Harry, W0KXP.

Astron RS-35M and RS-20M from Bill's, WA9IUF estate. (Hey, if you buy Mike's FT-897, the RS-35M would be a good power supply!) Call Randy, KC9MZ, or email jlr.bastian@norocm2000.com .

HAMFESTS:

October 28th is the 26th Annual Halloween Hamfest, Kirkwood, MO.

Make your plans now! This is the last hamfest in the area until Winterfest in January!

Thank you Steve, W9GZZ, for the great picture and article about the eclipse! And to Gene for the info on the communications support effort in Puerto Rico! This would be a very thin SCAN without their input!

Gene also sent a spreadsheet with information about the communications in support of the eclipse. There were about 25 stations that checked into the net(s). There were also SSB comms on 20 meters and a test of a CW link on 40 meters. Great effort everyone!

There's a lot of devastation and human anguish in the US right now after hurricanes Harvey and Maria. When Harvey was battering Texas and Louisiana, the GOES satellites showed three more hurricanes stretched the Atlantic! And there is still a month to go in hurricane season! God help us.

I write this, CNN is saying "North Korea could test hydrogen bomb over Pacific Ocean, says foreign minister". So I leave you with this link: [8 Essential Things You Should Be Doing NOW to Prepare for an EMP Attack](#).

Mike will chair the meeting this week, so I'll have to see you on the air on Tuesday night. Remember to send anything you might have for SCAN to kc9mz@arrl.net

73,

Randy

KC9MZ