

# St Clair Amateur Newsletter

February 2021

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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[kc9mz@arrl.net](mailto:kc9mz@arrl.net)

Vice Pres – Michael Petz  
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Secretary – Steve Westlund  
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Treasurer - Bob Thurgood  
WA9TUG (618) 239-9847  
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Activity Mgr- Jim Morgan  
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### VE Test Coordinator

Randy Bastian, KC9MZ

### Repeater Committee

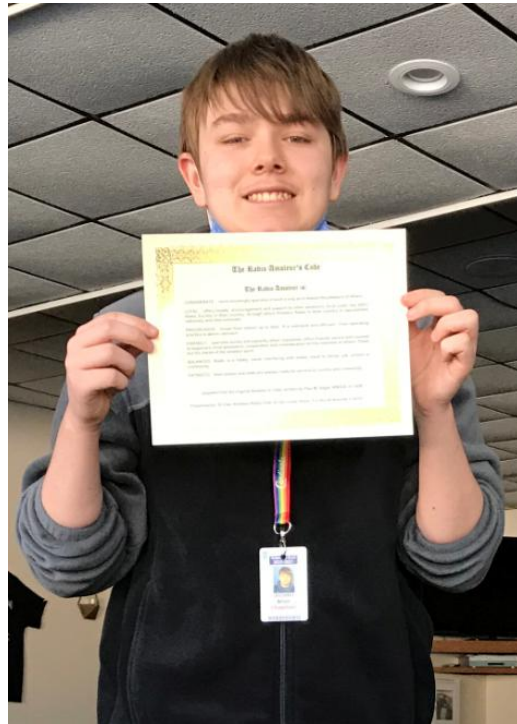
Randy Bastian, KC9MZ  
Michael Petz, KA9HNT  
Gary Valentine, N8GIL - emeritus,  
John Sundstrom, WA0LIS - emeritus

### Emergency Comm Committee

Gene Kramer, WA9TZL

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

## SCARC License Testing February 20<sup>th</sup> another Success!



**Brian Chapman showing off his copy of “The Amateur’s Code” that the club gives each new licensee when they test with us.** KC9MZ photo

We had another successful test session February 20<sup>th</sup>! Club member Steve Yancey, K9SHY, upgraded to General. Way to go Steve! Enjoy your new privileges!

Brian Chapman Jr, Gregg Cox, and Michael Hayes received their Technician License. Welcome them to Amateur Radio when you hear them on the air!

Thanks, to our VEs - Gary N8GIL, Larry K9LWW, Sean KK9U, and Randy KC9MZ.

Thanks to the Swansea Moose and Bob WA9TUG for reserving the Moose dining room.

If you or someone you know would like to test, please have them email me at [kc9mz@arrl.net](mailto:kc9mz@arrl.net). We still have several wanting to test. The next test session will be mid March at the Moose, at 9:30AM.

## Operating Events and HAMFESTS:

ARRL DX Contest March 6-7 see: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

Novice Rig Round-up March 6<sup>th</sup> – March 14<sup>th</sup> get on the air and work guys using their old Novice rigs on CW. This is a low key event for nostalgia and camaraderie. See <http://novicerigroundup.org/>

Nation Contest Journal North American Sprints: CW 2300 – 0259 Z February 6-7, RTTY 2300 – 0259 Z March 13-14

ARES HF Net The Illinois Section ARES HF Net meets on the first and third Sunday each month. The frequency is 3905 Khz +/- LSB.

K1USN Radio Club Slow Speed CW contest (20 WPM max) Mondays 1800-1900 CST

<http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

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

RRI Training Broadcast Schedule Wednesday 2000 CST (0200Z Thursday) 7060 kHz, and 2130 CST (0330Z Thursday) 3563 KHz, Thursday 1900 CST (0001Z Friday) 14060 KHz

**Meeting Date, Time and Location:** Next month's meeting will be on March 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be at the Swansea Moose Lodge with an "On the Air" meeting. Check-in starts at 8 pm. Steve, W9ZA, will have the 224.12MHz Net at 7 pm.

**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.

### SCARC License Testing in March

We will be offering a test session mid March at the Swansea Illinois Moose Lodge. If you or someone you know would like to test, please have them email me at [kc9mz@arrl.net](mailto:kc9mz@arrl.net).

### SCAN Needs Your Input, Articles

It would be great to hear from others amongst us about what operating activities you've involved with or what projects you've been working on.

## Local Amateur news....

**Karl, K9BGL**, recently received a plaque for his high score in the 2019 ARRL Sweepstakes, Single-Operator, High-Power, Phone. Congratulations Karl!

Karl has also received recognition for his mentorship of area Amateurs. In the March 2021 issue of *QST* "Celebrating Our Legacy" column, he was recognized by one of his mentees. I'll include it here:

### An Unforgettable Mentor

I was 15 when I met my mentor and life-long friend. I had recently received my Novice-class license and had built a one-tube transmitter from plans found in *Popular Electronics* magazine. My school bus route passed a house with a crank-up tower and an impressive tri-band Quad antenna on the roof. One Saturday, I rode my bike to the house and talked for a few hours with the owners, Karl Bretz, K9BGL, and his wife, Barbara. Karl gave me his old Multi-Elmac AF-67 transmitter to use until I saved up enough money to purchase my first real radio. I had already constructed a 40-meter dipole and strung it between two 20-foot poles, so I was ready to make some contacts. My Novice station also included a Hallicrafters S-53A receiver, a Heathkit Q Multiplier, and a homebrew electronic transmit-receive switch I built from plans in *The ARRL Handbook*. I contacted all 50 states and several countries with that station, running just 75 W.

Over the years, Karl mentored several young hams, and many of us went on to pursue careers in electronics, communications, and information technology. To this day, I still rely on his expertise in electronics and communications theory.

John R. Bechtoldt, WB9FHL  
O'Fallon, Illinois  
Life Member

Congratulations to **Carl, K9ZA**, for completing his DXCC CW! Great job Carl!

## FCC Proposes new fees for Amateur Radio!

The FCC had proposed a \$50 fee for new or modified Amateur Radio licenses, license renewals and vanity call signs. With input from over 3,000 Hams, the ARRL, and other organizations, the FCC has decided a \$35 fee would be more reasonable.

There's no information on the effective date so stay tuned.

If you or someone you know would like to upgrade or take their first test, do it sooner rather than later. Save the \$35.

## Here are some shorts:

Thank you to the Moose for allowing us to meet in their ballroom. There were about 25 in attendance and another 20 on the air! Thanks Bob, WA9TUG, for making this happen.

“The Amateur’s Code” was written by Paul Segal in 1928. Steve, W9ZS, reads the Code before his Thursday night Net on the 224.122- repeater. Larry, K9LWW, had the great idea to print it out on presentation paper and give it to new licensees at our VE test sessions.

Congratulations to Karl, K9BGL, and Carl, K9ZA, on their operating achievements! Great job guys!

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. Thank you guys for running these nets!

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

I hope you can check in to the meeting February 25<sup>th</sup> at 2000 CST.

73 es gud dx,

Randy, KC9MZ

Please patronize our supporters!

