

St Clair Amateur Newsletter

May 2021

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)

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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.)

224.120- Repeater Back on the Air



Dale, KB9JJA, doing some housekeeping around the repeater cabinets
KC9MZ photo

On the Air Meeting For May

After we move locations within the Moose Lodge, we had problems getting into the 2 meter repeater for the “on the air meeting”. Bob, WA9TUG, came up with the idea to use his Yaesu cross band rig in his truck and use 444 MHz from the meeting room.

It really worked great! We had 14 members check in on the air! We will continue to use this setup for our future meetings.



220 MHz repeater controller

KC9MZ Photo

220 Repeater Back On the Air!

Dale, KB9JJA, and I re-installed the 220 repeater early May.

The repeater is working a lot better, but is still being affected by some interference on the input. To lessen the interference, Dale installed a tone decoder. The decoder is turned on so to access the machine you must set your radio to send the 127.3 PL tone.

The picture on the first page was kind of a surprise! All the years I have been going to the repeater site I never notice that the floor wasn't just a sorta gray. I never kicked up any dust and nothing stuck to my shoes. So when Dale dropped his vacuum cleaner wand and it picked up some dirt I was surprised! You can see from the picture on the first page that Dale ended up vacuuming around the repeater cabinets.

Thanks, Dale for all your work repairing and aligning the receiver!

VE Testing June 19th at the Moose Lodge

We didn't have a test session in May, so our next session will be June 19th at 9:30 AM, Swansea Moose Lodge.

So far there are 2 individuals that would like to test.

If you would like to upgrade, or, if you know of someone who would like to test for their license please have them email me, Randy, KC9MZ at kc9mz@arrl.net

I've included the FCC information from last month in this SCAN.

FD Day June 26th – 27th

FD Day is just 4 weeks away!

Dean, K9JDW, is our FD Chairman. He sent out an email to the club outlining some FD ideas. Unfortunately, no one responded to his email! (me included) I'm going to include the email in this SCAN so maybe we can get a conversion going!

There will be a planning session at the Park, June 3rd at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in FD come out and give us your ideas!

Dean's FD email:

Saint Clair Amateur Radio Club Field Day 2021 Planning

Note: I have included references from the ARRL Field Day Rules and FAQs throughout this document

We have about 6 weeks till Field Day, so it's time to nail down our plans. Michael has secured our spot at Pleasant Ridge Park, in the same pavilion we have used with great success the last couple of years.

As the conditions in the world are continuing to improve we will hopefully have a good turnout on-site, but for those who plan to operate from home the ARRL's temporary rule waiver is still in place. This allows Class D and E (Home) stations to work ALL other Field Day stations, but now with a 150-watt limit (7) (4.6) (4.7). Home stations which indicate an affiliation with the club in their FD report will have their score added to the club's aggregate score.

Below are the operating parameters we have followed the last several years. We can discuss and vote on these at the next meeting. If you have a suggestion on these or any other point feel free to let me know so we can include your input in the discussion.

- Battery Ops (Incl GOTA / VHF) ref:(6.9) (7.3.1) (FAQ)
- 150 watts max ref: (7.2.3)
- 3 HF Xmitters, operating as class A portable ref: (4.1)
- Free VHF station (includes 6m) ref: (2) (4.1.2)
- All applicable HF Bands (160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10) / Modes (Phone, CW, Digital) (if possible) ref: (2)
- FLog for logging
- We can set up starting 1800 UTC Saturday for 27 hour ops, or setup earlier (starting 0000 UTC Friday) with 24 hour ops (our normal practice) ref: (3)

We can also consider the use of a GOTA station. It has the same power limit as the rest of the xmitters and must operate from battery. We should also have a designated GOTA coach at all times GOTA is operating, which doubles the GOTA QSO bonus points ref: (4) (4.1.1) (4.1.2) (5) (6.7) (6.10) (7.3.1) (7.3.13) (FAQ #2) (GOTA Station FAQs) (GOTA Scoring FAQs)

I would like to have a couple of planning / testing sessions. I am open to suggestions as to time / place, else I'll just pick a couple of days (I'm thinking before the next meeting and the week before FD).

Agenda:

Antennas - We need to have an idea what types of antennas folks have in mind to insure we have adequate band coverage, availability, RFI prevention, and to make site decisions during setup. I would like to get together in person or on zoom to discuss options and plan.

Should we stand up a separate 6m station as the free VHF xmitter.

Batteries / Power Solutions - This has been a weak spot for several of us the last 2 years. We need to get as many batteries on site as possible and they need to be well charged

Logging - I can provide several computers, router, and the software. We can do a training session the morning of FD before ops begins or at any convenient time in the interim.

Digital Modes – I have modified the logging app (FDLog) to work with FLDigi and WSJT. If anyone wants to use other Digital apps, we need to review and see if I can integrate the logging into FDLog. Everyone operating digital on-site will need to validate the FDLog configuration is working on their system.

Schedule - Always a sore spot during planning. Some of us want to operate continuously (it doesn't end well!) and few want to actually commit to a scheduled time/day. With that in mind, we just need to aim to have sufficient operators on hand to keep all the radios on the air at all times (sometimes tough overnight), and enough folks available for set up and tear down (not usually a problem)

Tasks / Roles that need to be filled in advance so that we can be ready to tackle them. Step on up folks:

- We need Digital and CW operators – Lots of points on the table here!
- Publicity: POC K9JDW
- Press releases for local media (7.3.2)
- Update ARRL locator
- ref: (Field Day Message / Message Handling)
- Message Origination to ARRL Section Manager (7.3.5)
- Message Handling (7.3.6)
- W1AW FD Bulletin (7.3.9)
- Alternate Power (Solar) (7.3.8) – KA9HNT / K9JDW
- Educational Session (7.3.10) (Educational Activity Bonus FAQ)
- Visit from a Public Official by Invitation (7.3.11)
- Visit by an agency rep (7.3.12)
- Youth Involvement / Scouts (7.3.15)
- Social Media - Monitor / update social media / web site (7.3.16) (Social Media and FD 2021)
- Safety Officer (7.3.17) (ARRL Field Day Safety Officer Checklist) (How to Succeed in FD by REALLY trying)
- Conduct Safety Briefing before start of setup / operation
- Review site and operations for safety
- Document Safety Checks
- Site Manager (I'm just spit balling here, but I think this could help avoid some issues from past years):
- Assign / Confirm bands for operators
- Monitor logging
- Ensure operation is within control operator privileges
- Ensure roles are filled as needed
- Liaison with Guests, Vip's, etc
- And most important – Club FD Chef!

We need to hear from everyone so we can plan. Are you planning to come out? Are you interested in tackling one of the goals listed (or any other)? Do you just wanna socialize? Let me know.

If you have anything you want to add, I can be reached at:

jameswrght362@gmail.com
Txt: 618-531-2965

Dean Wright
K9JDW

Operating Events and HAMFESTS:

ARRL June VHF Party June 12th -14th see <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>

ARRL Field Day June 26th – 27th see <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

West Central Illinois Hamfest, sometimes known as the “Carlinville” Hamfest, is to be August 7th at the Macoupin County Fairgrounds see: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/west-central-illinois-hamfest-6>

St. Louis ARC is planning on having the “Halloween Hamfest” on October 30th at the Kirkwood Community Center see: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/halloween-hamfest-6>

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 Thursday 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 June 24th. It will be at the Swansea Moose Lodge with an “On the Air” meeting component. 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.

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.

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.

The ARRL VE letter stated there are some FCC procedures that have to take place before the new \$35 fee will be in effect. The best guess is that it will be this summer.

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

FCC will not accept SSN in lieu of FRN

ARLB014 FCC Auto-Registration Feature for Exam Applicants to be discontinued

Auto-registration in the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES) amateur radio exam for candidates using a Social Security number will be discontinued on May 20, 2021. Applicants must use an FCC Registration Number (FRN) for all license transactions with the FCC.

Examinees must register in CORES and receive an FRN before exam day.

Starting on May 20, electronic batch filed applications that do not include a candidate's FRN will be rejected. The Social Security/Licensee ID Field will be disabled.

The CORES website can be accessed at:

<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do> .

An instructional video provides step-by-step instructions on how to establish a CORES account, which is necessary for licensees to make administrative updates and download electronic license authorizations.

The instructional video can be found at, <https://www.fcc.gov/rofrn> .

FCC will require all applications to have an email address

After June 29, all filers must provide an email address on all applications. When an email is provided, applicants will receive an official electronic copy of their licenses once granted (allow incoming email from authorizations@fcc.gov). If no email is provided when filing on or after June 29, applications will be rejected. ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email to use the email address of a family member or friend.

Further information about providing an email address can be found at,

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-to-require-email-address-on-applications-starting-on-june-29-2021>

Licensees need to log in to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) to download their authorizations. The FCC no longer issues paper copies.

From ARRL ARLB014 April 27, 2021

Thanks to Sean KK9U and Gary N8GIL, for bringing this ARRL Bulletin to our attention!

Here are some shorts

Thank you to the Moose for allowing us to meet in their ballroom. There were about 15 in attendance (May 25)! Thanks Bob, WA9TUG, for making this happen.

We have pavilion #2 at Pleasant Ridge Park reserved for Field Day, June 26th – 27th. Thanks, Michael, KA9HNT!

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.

I hope you can attend or check in to the next meeting on June 24th at 2000 CDT.

73 es gud dx,

Randy, KC9MZ

Please patronize our supporters!

