

# St Clair Amateur Newsletter

November 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)

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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.)

## Test Session November 13<sup>th</sup>



Two new Technicians: Thomas Quinn and Michael Stocksdale

KC9MZ Photo

The test session was successful; there are two new Technicians in town! Say “Hi” to **Thomas Quinn and Michael Stockdale** when you hear them on the Air!

We will be offering a test session mid December 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).

## Repeater Refresh Begins

There was a work party at the Repeater site last Saturday. Gary, K9RVE, Randy, KC9MZ, Steve, K9SHY, and Dale, KB9JJA started the repeater refresh project. Dale thought it would be a good idea to assemble the antenna and check it out before we called the bucket truck to put in on the tower. Boy was he right! After checking the antenna with a VNA didn't give us the results we expected, we tried checking the SWR with a Heathkit watt meter! Same thing..... very bad SWR!

Finally a simple VOM (DVM) did the trick. The connector was open! The center pin was missing! Disassembling the bottom section told the tale – a very poor solder joint between the type “N” connector and the antenna! I can just imagine if the pin had been through the bottom of the connector and we would have been able to install the antenna, the wind would have played havoc with that joint and generated all sorts of noise!

Dale is working with the vendor to get the antenna replaced.

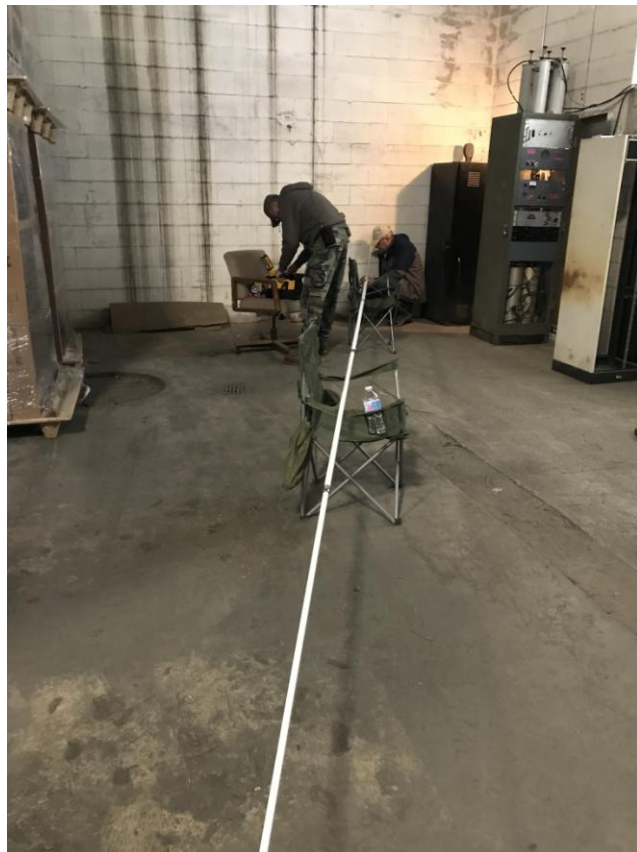
### Repeater Refresh Pictures



N connector at the bottom of the antenna; notice there's no center pin.  
KC9MZ Photo



N connector should be soldered on to the brass tube. K9SHY Photo



Gary and Dale checking the antenna with a VNA  
KC9MZ Photo



Dale checking with the watt meter KC9MZ Photo

## Operating Events and HAMFESTS:

ARRL November Sweepstakes Nov 6-8 CW, Nov 20-22 Phone see: [Sweepstakes \(arrl.org\)](https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes)

The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club will sponsor the Winterfest and ARRL Midwest Division Convention January 22, 2022 see: [Winterfest 2022 \(slsrc.org\)](https://www.slsrc.org/winterfest-2022)

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

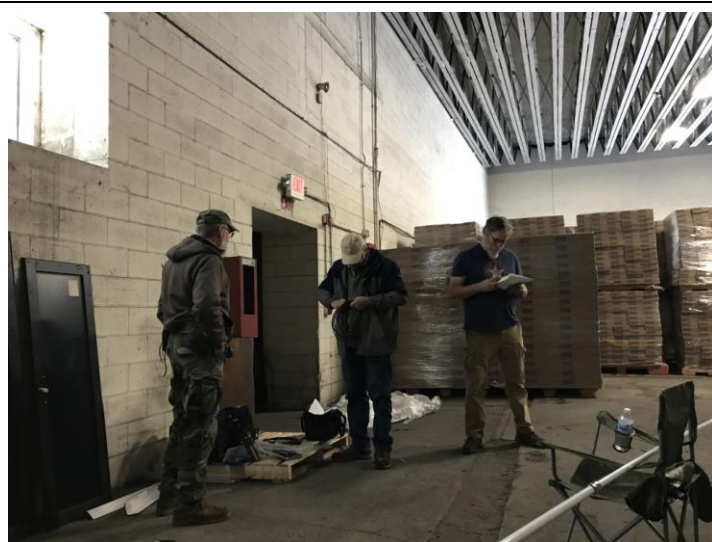
<http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

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 December 16<sup>th</sup>. It's our Christmas dinner meeting at Eckert's Country Restaurant (starting at 6 pm), 951 South Green Mount Road, Belleville, 62220. We will **not** have an "On the Air" meeting component.

**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.



Checking the directions after a bad VNA and SWR result!

KC9MZ Photo



Steve, K9SHY

KC9MZ Photo

## FCC Proposes new fees for Amateur Radio!

**New information!!!! On August 16<sup>th</sup> an ARRL bulletin stated that the new fees will not go into effect before 2022! See: [FCC Application Fees Unlikely to Go into Effect Until 2022 \(arrl.org\)](https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fees-unlikely-to-go-into-effect-until-2022)**

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](mailto: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!

## On the Air Meeting For October

We had 8 members check in on the air! (22 attended the meeting). We will continue to use this setup for our future meetings. Our next meeting is November 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the Moose for letting us have our meetings in their ballroom.

One of the neat things about the Moose seems to be that members hang around and talk after the meeting. That's great!

## 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!



Gary, K9RVE

KC9MZ Photo

## Here are some shorts

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 attend or check in to the next meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 2000 CDT.

73 es gud dx,

Randy, KC9MZ

Please patronize our supporters!

