

SCAN

Newsletter of the St. Clair Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 94, Belleville, IL 62222

www.scarc.net

March/April 2006

Club Repeaters: 147.120+ / 224.120- / 444.625+

WELCOME

Welcome to the fourth online edition of SCAN. You may catch up on old editions of SCAN by simply visiting our website at <http://www.scarc.net>.

HAMFESTS

Lewis and Clark Indoor Hamfest. Saturday April 29th. Lewis and Clark Community College, Godfrey, IL 7:00 AM - Noon, 145.230 PL 79.7

The club will have a table at the April 29th annual Lewis and Clark Radio Amateur Radio Club Hamfest. The table has been donated to our club from the Lewis and Clark Radio Club. We will have information available about our club at the table. The table will also serve as a gathering place for our club members while at the ham fest. If you would be interested in helping man the table let Dale KB9JJA know.

ACTIVITIES

Bob Parish W9BP has asked for ideas on activities for the upcoming year. If you have an idea, or would be interested in giving, or arranging a presentation at a meeting please contact Bob.

Mark your calendars for June 24th and 25th. We have some fun things planned for Field Day.

The Shriners Parade is coming June 2, 2006. We always have a good time helping out the Shriners. All you need is a 2 meter HT, if you are interested in helping please contact N9HZD and get your name on the list.

CLUB PROJECTS

At our next meeting we are having a kit building session. It is designed to be a fun and inexpensive introduction to kit building and learning to solder. The cost of the kits were \$7.50 to each member that wanted to participate. It is too late to get in on this project, but if there is enough interest we can plan another one.

For those of you that are participating, please bring a 9 Volt Battery, a small wattage soldering iron, some small solder, small wire cutters, and an extension cord. I have the kits and have printed out copies of the documentation. The kits should take about 1 hour to put together and align. I will bring a frequency counter to the meeting so that we can align the marker generators after you have completed building them.

For those of you new to soldering kits together, I will be available to help out.

If you have not soldered anything before, you might want to check out this very good article on Soldering tips by Tom Hammond, N0SS

<http://www.ladyada.net/make/tutorials/soldering.pdf>

information on the kit is available at

<http://www.norcalqrp.org/VE3DNLmarkergenerator.htm>

73's and see you at the April meeting Dale KB9JJA

UHF Repeater

During the last club meeting I mentioned having some issues with the UHF Repeater and EchoIRLP. The problem that we are having is random interference on the input of the 440 Machine. This interference is usually one of three sources (DX drifting in from distant repeaters, electrical type interference, and Squelch opening from noises that are not modulated, mal-functioning commercial repeaters, etc). These types of interference are not normally a major issue to the repeater users due to its intermittent nature, but causes major headaches for the IRLP Reflectors if the repeater is left connected to them. The IRLP reflector owners have a very strict policy about requiring PL on the input of the repeater to keep stray noises and repeater IDs off of the IRLP network. The reason for this strict policy is justified since one malfunctioning repeater could effectively tie up 20-30 repeaters around the world and render the reflector communications useless. Over the last week, more users have started to use the IRLP system and unfortunately we've had noise on the input of the repeater each time the IRLP node was connected causing our Node to be Banned from the reflectors pending a fix. Last weekend we were banned from the Western Reflector on Friday night due to noise on the input and Sunday evening we were banned from the Crossroads reflector for the same reason.

We asked at the last meeting how many members would be affected if we turned on the PL on the 440 machine. 3 People responded that they had some 440 equipment that would be affected. We have talked to the members that would be affected, and they agreed that they could modify or upgrade their equipment to send PL. We will review this at the April meeting, and take a vote on turning on PL on the 440 machine. If you have concerns or comments about this please feel free to bring them up at the April meeting.

USE OF THE CLUB E-MAIL REFLECTOR

I would like to encourage all of you to sign up to the club e-mail reflector at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SC-ARC> The reflector is a quick easy way to get e-mails out to most of the club members, as well as to other local hams. The reflector is not just for club use, and is open to all local hams just as our repeaters are. The reflector is a good place to ask a question on area ham activities, or to help you solve a technical issue. By sending one e-mail to the reflector it will be sent to all users. Currently there are 59 people signed up to the reflector.

Dale KB9JJA

EchoIRLP Commands

To Connect to an IRLP Node	Send the four digit node number (#####)
To Connect to an Echolink Node	Send a # + the node number (# #####)
To Disconnect from a node	73
To check EchoIRLP Status	0
To check the recent call activity	*69
To play the current time	36