

# St Clair Amateur Newsletter

June 2020

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  
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Vice Pres – Michael Petz  
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Secretary – Tip Klamberg  
N9MVX (618) 670-1502  
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Treasurer - Bob Thurgood  
WA9TUG (618) 239-9847  
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Sgt at Arms - Dan Campos  
KD9ADB (618) 236-1509  
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Activity Mgr- Jim Morgan  
KD9BLA  
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**VE Test Coordinator**  
Randy Bastian, KC9MZ

**Repeater Committee**  
Randy Bastian, KC9MZ  
Michael Petz, KA9HNT  
Gary Valentine, N8GIL - emeritus,  
John Sundstrom, WAOLIS -  
emeritus

**Emergency Comm Committee**  
Curtis Williams, W5DTR

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

## SCARC to Resume License Testing

We will resume license testing this July 11<sup>th</sup>. We still don't have access to the Fire Department, but Bob, WA9TUG, has asked the Swansea Moose Lodge if we could test on their grounds.

Although the FCC had a few problems processing licenses, the ARRL VEC continued to forward the testing results to the FCC. The problem we had was that we didn't have a venue to do the testing.

We will be setting up outside using card tables and lawn chairs. In the event of rain, we will do the "drive in" type of testing that was done in Carrier Mills, Illinois. There is the possibility of going to the picnic pavilion or Moose Lodge.

If you would like to test, please send me an email to help give us an idea of how many people to expect.

Testing will begin at 1 pm on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at the Swansea Moose Lodge on Illinois Rt 159. Turn into the driveway and we will be in the parking lot on the right with all of the shade trees. Bring a photo ID, \$15 test fee, pen and pencil, and a copy of your current license or CSCE. It would help if you could bring your own table and lawn chair.

## Field Day to be held at Pleasant Ridge Park

The Fairview Heights Parks Department has told us we are approved for our Field Day setup with a group of ten or less.

One June 26<sup>th</sup> (hopefully) the State is going to move into phase 4 which should allow for groups of 50 or less. Of course, the Parks Department will have the final word on how many people they will allow.

Right now, the number of people that have responded to the FD emails is seven. So we will have room for a few visitors to come and go. Parks Department and Fairview Heights Police will enforce the number of people at the site.

There will not be a Club dinner Saturday evening.

FD setup will start from 9 -10 am Saturday.

## For Sale

### Kenwood TS-450 and Astron RS-30 power supply

This transceiver is very clean, original box, manuals. I've tested the output on each band and its 100 watts or so. Audio sounds good on station receiver. This rig does not have the auto tune unit.

The Astron power supply has a broken rocker switch which selects volts or amps on the built in meter.

It looks like the Kenwood was bought to replace a malfunctioning Ten-Tec and never used. The owner went into a Home, both for \$450.

Astatic D-104 amplified microphone black head and chrome neck (\$55, some paint chips on the base).

### Yaesu FT-767GX

Yaesu FT-767GX transceiver with manual. \$500.00. Built in power supply and antenna tuner, 160 – 6 Meters.

The above listings are all estate sale items.

Call Randy, KC9MZ, 618-235-1444, or email [jlr.bastian@norcom2000.com](mailto:jlr.bastian@norcom2000.com) if interested.

### Icom-756Pro and Astron RS-35A power supply

Icom -756Pro, excellent condition with manual.

Astron RS-35A power supply

HyGain 18 AVT vertical antenna

All for \$500.00.

Contract Joe Sandy, K9GFX, Joe Sandy [jsandy56@sbcglobal.net] if interested.

There are more For Sale items on our web site: <http://scarc.net/>

## Operating Events and HAMFESTS:

ARRL FD, June 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

Zero Beaters ARC Hamfest, July 19<sup>th</sup> Washington Mo Elks Club <http://zerobeaters.org/>

St. Charles Amateur Radio Club Hamfest August 9<sup>th</sup>, O'Fallon, MO **Has been postponed until 2021.**

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

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

**Meeting Date, Time and Location:** Next month's meeting will be on June 25<sup>th</sup> and it will be an "On the Air" meeting. Check-ins start at 8 pm CDT. 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.

## Morse Code and Traffic Handling Proficiency

I've written about Morse Code training before (CWops), but this organization emphasizes traffic handling. Radio Relay International offers a very attractive certificate for the correct copy of a radiogram.

The messages are sent on 80, 40 and 20 meters each Wednesday and Thursday. The speeds are 15 and 20 Words per minute (WPM).

RRI will also offer 25 and 30 WPM tests several times a year.

I'll attach the information to the back of this SCAN or you may find it here: <http://radio-relay.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/RRI-Weekly-Broadcast-Schedule-FA-2020-7-1.pdf>

Thanks to Gene, WA9TZL, for sharing this information.

## Election of Officers

January started the process for election of club offices. If you would like to nominate someone or run for offices yourself, please let the Sergeant at Arms, Dan, KD9ADB know. The current slate of nominees is:

President:	Randy, KC9MZ
Vice President:	Michael, KA9HNT and Jim KD9BLA
Secretary:	Steve, W9ZS
Treasurer:	Bob, WA9TUG
Publicity Activist:	Dan, K9JDW
Sgt at Arms:	Dan, KD9ADB
Activity Manager:	Jim, KD9BLA

Still postponed due to CV-19.

### Here are some shorts:

Our "On the Air Meeting" held on May 28<sup>th</sup> had approximately 25 check-ins. One of the discussion topics was FD. If you want to participate, please let me know.

**Dues became due January 1<sup>st</sup>**, please see Bob, WA9TUG. Bob has said there are quite a few members who haven't paid their 2020 club dues. Please help support your club and pay your dues! Bob said you can mail them to our PO Box 94 or to his home address: 5 Seven Iron Court, Belleville, Illinois, 62220. Thank you.

In case you missed Bob Heil's Heil Ham Radio Day 2020 here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVZiL9iq12s>

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.

Hope to hear you on the air, wish us luck on Field Day!

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

73 es gud dx,

Randy, KC9MZ

Please patronize our supporters!





## RRI Training Broadcast Schedule

### **Purpose of Training Broadcasts:**

During the 2016 "Cascadia Rising" Federal disaster exercise, radiotelegraph (CW) traffic nets successfully demonstrated superior efficiency by conveying simulated five letter cipher group messages from Alaska, Idaho, Northern California, Oregon and Washington State to the *National Response Coordination Center* in Washington, D.C. Scoring a 99.998 percent accuracy rate against 10,220 data points with message propagation times measured through the network in a superior range of 10 to 13 minutes, this test of CW traffic nets successfully ended any debate about the efficacy of CW for disaster communications.

While Radio Relay International fully supports technical innovation in all phases of the Amateur Radio Service, we remain committed to CW traffic nets due to their superior survivability and their elegant simplicity, which again and again proves beneficial. In keeping with this policy, RRI now sponsors training broadcasts designed to prepare CW operators for participation in traffic nets.

### **What do the broadcasts consist of?**

The Training broadcasts consist of simulated radiograms of *test routine, welfare and priority* precedence. Some are simple and straightforward routine messages, whereas others are somewhat more complex, such as "situational awareness reports" (SITREP), "operational readiness reports" (OPRED) and weather observations (WXOBS). All are designed to develop sufficient operator confidence so that participation in CW nets is not intimidating.

### **What CW speeds are broadcast?**

The training broadcasts are conducted at two speeds, 15 and 20 words per minute. Occasional "qualification broadcasts" will be transmitted several times per year at 25 and 30 words per minute for those who would like a greater challenge. All broadcasts consist of professional grade material. That is; if one can copy the training broadcasts with a 95-percent accuracy rate or better, he can consider himself a professional grade operator.

### **A certification certificate is available:**

Operators who submit manual copy (with stick, word process or mill) will earn a high-quality certificate attesting to their abilities. Obviously, manual copy is required. The use of code readers or software to copy the traffic is prohibited for certification purposes.

**Rules for certification:**

This broadcast will be transmitted on 80, 40 and 20 meters each Wednesday/Thursday. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate professional-level CW proficiency. The rules for the qualification run are as follows:

1. The messages must be received and transcribed manually. Code readers and other software-based programs shall not be used to decode or correct message content. Obviously, the "honor system" applies.
2. One can transcribe the message traffic by "stick" (pen or pencil), on a mill (typewriter), or on a word processor program. However, the transcript must be neat and readable with no discrepancy in message content.
3. The messages must be transcribed in standard radiogram format, an example of which is provided below.

*Example of a properly transcribed message:*

22 R W6RRI 15 CHICAGO IL MAY 28  
THEODORE HAMM  
2321 HENNIPEN AVE  
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55111  
612 555 1212  
BT  
YOU WILL WANT TO PROVE YOUR ABILITY TO USE CW  
LIKE A PROFESSIONAL OPERATOR 73  
BT  
RADIO RELAY INTERNATIONAL

Those desiring certification must submit a transcript, along with your call sign, date of broadcast and mailing address to Radio Relay International no later than five days after the broadcast cycle concludes. The address is:

Radio Relay International  
PO Box 43  
Niles, MI. 49120-0043  
[info@radio-relay.org](mailto:info@radio-relay.org)

**Broadcast Schedule Effective July 1, 2020**

One will have three chances to copy the identical broadcast of message traffic. Broadcasts will take place each Wednesday on the following schedule (all times are UTC/Standard Time):

Wednesday One	Wednesday Two	Wednesday Three	Wednesday Four
RRIC/RRIE Transmit Eastern Time	RRIW Transmit Pacific Time	RRIE/RRIC Transmit Eastern Time	RRIW Transmit Pacific Time
20 wpm	20 wpm	15 wpm	15 wpm

**Eastern Area** (RRIE/RRIC) broadcasts on **first and third** Wednesdays, 20 and 15 wpm respectively. UTC times and radio day shown in parenthesis.

Wednesday 9:00 PM EST/EDT 7060 KHz	(0200Z EST/0100Z EDT Thursday)
Wednesday 10:30 PM EST/EDT 3563 KHz	(0330Z EST/0230Z EDT Thursday)
Thursday 7:00 PM EST/EDT 14060 KHz	(0001Z Friday EST/2300Z Thursday EDT)

**Western Area** (RRIW) broadcasts on **second and fourth** Wednesdays, 20 and 15 wpm respectively. UTC times and radio day shown in parenthesis.

Wednesday 9:00 PM PST/PDT 7060 KHz	(0500Z EST/0400Z EDT Thursday)
Wednesday 10:30 PM PST/PDT 3563 KHz	(0630Z EST/0530Z EDT Thursday)
Thursday 7:00 PM PST/PDT 14060 KHz	(0300Z EST/0200Z EDT Friday)

Note 1: New radio day starts at midnight, UTC (GMT).

Note 2: Please note that the broadcast frequency may vary +/- 5 kHz to accommodate existing users or to avoid interference. Listen for the preliminary marker ("V V V de W6RRI") from W6RRI, which will precede the training broadcast.



**Sample radiotelegraph proficiency certificate.**