

St Clair Amateur Newsletter

January 2024

PO Box 94, Belleville, IL 62222

www.scarc.net

Club Repeaters: 147.120+ / 224.120- / 444.625+ (pl 127.3)

Club Officers

President – Randy Bastian
KC9MZ (618) 973-6379
kc9mz---arrl.net

Vice Pres – Michael Petz
KA9HNT (618) 688-2050
ka9hnt---gmail.com

Secretary –Kris Crockett
KD9VRT Kris---
collinsintegrated.com

Treasurer - Bob Thurgood
WA9TUG (618) 239-9847
wa9tug---arrl.net

Sgt at Arms - Dan Campos
KD9ADB
daniel.campos---charter.net

Activity Mgr- Jim Morgan
KD9BLA
Highonharmony---gmail.com

Publicity Activist – Dean, K9JDW
Jameswrght362---gmail.com

VE Test Coordinator

Randy Bastian, KC9MZ

Repeater Committee

Randy Bastian, KC9MZ
Michael Petz, KA9HNT
Dale Wentz, KB9JJA, Project Manager
Garry 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.)

Happy New Year!

Election of Officers

January starts the election process for club officers. The Sergeant-at-Arms takes nominations at the January, February, and March meetings with the election itself in March. Dan, KD9ADB, told us that most of the current officers agreed to be nominated for another year. Dan will ask for nominations again in February.

So far:

President Randy, KC9MZ
Vice President Michael, KA9HNT
Secretary
Treasurer Bob, WA9TUG
Sergeant-at-Arms Dan, KD9ADB
Activity Manager Jim, KD9BLA
Publicity Activist Dean, K9JDW

Club Nets

Don't forget the “Good Morning Net” M-F, 7:30 – 8:30 am by Larry, K9LWW, and Julio, AA2KF. Also the 224.12 MHz Net is on Thursdays, 8 pm by Steve, W9ZS and there is a 444.625 MHz at 7 pm on Wednesdays. Tim is unable to continue as Net Control for the Wednesday Net. Will someone volunteer to be Net Control? Thank you guys for running these fine nets!

AM or SSB are there 'windows' ??

Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID

Amplitude Modulation has been used for voice transmission between Radio Amateurs for more than a century. A new voice mode appeared in 1947, when Wes Schum, W9DYV introduced the first Amateur Radio SSB transmitter, the Central Electronics 10A. By the late 1950's and early 1960's, competition for dial space began to "heat up" between the 'died in the wool' AM operators and the new, hard to tune in, Single Sideband operators. Eventually, there was a sit-down, face to face meeting, between some "Big Gun" SSB operators and long time, AM operators. Together, both groups decided on a 'Gentlemen's Agreement', for AM dial space. For example, on 75 meters, they choose 3.870MHz to 3.890MHz as the "AM Window". On 40 meters, AM around 7.290MHz. 20 meters, 14.268MHz; etc. These "windows' were promoted by the ARRL and strongly observed by AM operators for a couple of decades.

During the 1980's and 1990's AM operations had declined, and many newly licensed SSB operators came to be. Many of them didn't know AM even existed on the Amateur bands, as the AM Window concept was no longer promoted well, or not acknowledged. However, AM has seen a recent resurgence of popularity, in part due to the introduction of Software Defined Radio Transceivers, such as FlexRadio Systems lineup, the ICOM IC7300, Yaesu FT101DX, Kenwood TS890, Apache Labs Anan 80000DLE, etc. New and old AM enthusiasts have homebrewed Class E modulated solid state AM transmitters. In 2018, QST tested and reviewed the K7DYY AM (only) solid state, Class D transmitter, a near legal limit, AM only transmitter, with built in power supply, that weighs only 8 pounds!

With increased activity, some cross mode interference is sometimes unavoidable. It is always best to remember, *NO ONE owns a frequency, regardless of mode.* It is good practice to always check the tuned frequency, to make sure it is not already in use, by one, or more stations. Some AM Operators are crystal controlled and cannot easily change frequency. 3.885 MHz for example, is a popular crystal frequency used within the US phone band.

With almost all SSB transmitters being frequency agile, would you give the 3885 kHz crystal controlled AM station a little leeway and move a few kHz, if he was there, first?

With the increased number of AM stations, there are now are a few other spots on the dial that AM operation can be found. Both SSB and AM mode users can avoid misunderstanding, or disagreement, if each party observes the AMATEUR's CODE:

ONE AMATEUR IS CONSIDERATE

The Amateur is considerate, never knowingly operates in such a way to lessen the pleasure of others.

TWO AMATEUR IS LOYAL

He offers his loyalty and encouragement to fellow amateurs.

THREE AMATEUR IS PROGRESSIVE

Keeps his station efficient and well maintained. His operating practice is above reproach.

FOUR AMATEUR IS FRIENDLY

Offers kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interest of others.

FIVE AMATEUR IS BALANCED

Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with duties to his home or family.

SIX AMATEUR IS PATRIOTIC

His station is always ready for service of his country.

Adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal in 1928

In addition, please ask, "Is the frequency In Use?"

As always, with any mode, asking if the frequency is in use, first, will alleviate an initial misunderstanding. Please remember that the ham bands can change quickly, causing new interference. Acknowledge the changing band, and be friendly about it. I encourage everyone to join AMI. www.aminternational.club. Learn, appreciate, and enjoy AM operation. Let's all be courteous to each other and share our frequencies.

Operating Events and HAMFESTS:

January 26th DX/ARRL Banquet see: <https://www.slsrc.org/product/winterfest-2024-banquet/>

January 26th Wes Schum Symposium see: [Mid-Central Premiere Hamfest for 2024 \(slsrc.org\)](https://www.slsrc.org/mid-central-premiere-hamfest-for-2024/)

January 27th 2023 Winterfest Hamfest, Collinsville, IL see: [Mid-Central Premiere Hamfest for 2024 \(slsrc.org\)](https://www.slsrc.org/mid-central-premiere-hamfest-for-2024/)

March 23rd Lewis and Clark Radio Club Hamfest, Lewis and Clark CC, Godfrey, IL see: <http://arrl.org/hamfests/lewis-and-clark-radio-club-hamfest-5>

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

VE Testing Results in New Technician!



Larry K9LWW, Jon Santos, Michael KA9HNT, and Garry N8GIL

KC9MZ photo

Club Breakfast



Larry K9LWW and Linda

Linda photo



Chuck N7NBS and Dale KB9JJA

AA2KF photo



Dan KE5BG and Wendy

AA2KFphoto

Club Breakfast



AA2KF photo



AA2KF photo

Meeting Date, Time and Location: Next month's meeting will be on January 25th. It will be at the Swansea Moose Lodge. The meeting will be to the left of the bar area.

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 and prospective members and thank them for their interest in Ham Radio.

Here are some shorts

Thank you Bob K9EID for the great article on the "AM Window". It's always good operating practice to ask if the frequency is in use before you transmit.

Bob mentions Wes Schum, W9DYV, in his article. Part of the upcoming SLSRC Winterfest is the Wes Schum Symposium on Friday January 26th. This is a free event but, you have to pre-register. I really enjoyed the presentations last year. Here is this year's tentative schedule:

OPENING REMARKS: 8:00 AM - Nick Tusa K5EF

"Wi-Fi Applications in the Ham Shack" by By Buelow WØIY - Team-XCR

"3D Printing for the Ham Shack" by Joe Eisenberg KØNEB

"The One Active Device Challenge" by Robert Nickels W9RAN

"Meet the 4SQR - An overview of the Four State QRP Group, our activities, and kits" by David Gripe NMØS

LUNCH BREAK – Resume at 1:00 PM

"The Mighty MOX— the KMOX Story" by Sally and Rob Rains

"The Challenge of Precision Phase Shift Networks" by John Townsend AC8FL

"Something Old, Something New, Something Used and a Lot of Ingenuity" by Ron Rausch K5HZ

"Overview of the Hermes-Lite 2 Direct Digital Conversion SDR Transceiver" by Robert Nickels W9RAN

Single Sideband originated in Bell Labs as a method of putting multiple voice signals on a telephone circuit. In 1923 Bell demonstrated the first transatlantic single sideband transmission. In the late 1940's QST had many articles on SSB. Schum's company Central Electronics was one of the leading companies developing commercial Single Sideband gear for every Ham. Schum was an innovator; look up his 200V transmitter and 600L linear amplifier if you are interested.

Please send anything you might have for SCAN to kc9mz---arrl-net.

I hope you can attend our January meeting on January 25th at 8pm.

Please pray for peace in Ukraine!

73 es gud DX,

Randy, KC9MZ

Please patronize our supporters!

