

St Clair Amateur Newsletter

March 2023

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)

Club Officers

President – Randy Bastian
KC9MZ (618) 235-1444
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
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.)

224MHz Repeater back in Service!



Karl K9BGL, Randy KC9MZ, Steve W9ZS and Dave WB1CDG reinstall 224 Repeater
photo WB1CDG

Operating Events and HAMFESTS:

Missouri QSO Party April 1st – 2nd see: <https://www.w0ma.org/index.php/missouri-qso-party>

Louisiana QSO Party, Mississippi QSO Party, and Florida State Parks on the Air April 1st – 2nd see: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php#14636>

ARRL Rookie Roundup (Phone) April 16th 1800 UTC thru 2359 UTC see: <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

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

SCAN Needs Your Input, Articles

It would be great to hear from others amongst us about what operating activities you're involved with or what projects you've been working on!

Looking for some Radios?

Check the club website <https://www.scarc.net/> under Classifieds to see what some of the club members have for sale.

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 all 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 Kris, KD9VRT
Treasurer Bob W9TUG
Sergeant-at-Arms Dan KD9ADB
Activity Manager Jim KD9BLA
Publicity Activist Dean K9JDW

Meeting Date, Time and Location: Next month's meeting will be on March 30th. It will be at the Swansea Moose Lodge. The meeting will be in the Game Room, the last door past the dining room.

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.

Club Breakfast March 11th



Left to right: Dave WB1CDG, Dan KD9ADB, John KD9VVQ, Mike KC9SZ, Dave K9ZHN, Steve W9ZS, Wayne KC9ZYQ, Bill KC9CIK, Tip N9MVX, Wendy and Dan KE5BG AA2KF photo

Over 15 of us enjoyed breakfast together at the Club's March 11th breakfast at Denny's Restaurant in O'Fallon Illinois.

At the February 23rd meeting, the club voted to have the Club breakfast on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

The next breakfast date will be April 8th at the Golden Coral in Shiloh, IL.

KC9MZ

224 MHz Repeater back in Service!

On the morning of March 20th Karl, Steve, Dave and I put the 224 MHz repeater back in service.

I tried and tried to repair the original RC-100 controller, but after a new DTMF decoder and PTT driver transistor, I'm left with the fact that the EEPROM must be bad too. The controller will not remember any programming after a power off.

The RC-100 from Curtis's repeater must have suffered an over-voltage event or perhaps a leaky capacitor because the traces on the edge of the board are discolored and the controller will not respond.

At the last meeting, Dale gave me the controllers from the old 2 meter and 444 MHz repeaters. The RC-100 checked out ok, so I put it into service. The only problem is the RC-100 is rev "E" and doesn't support a PL decoder. Steve (and I think Dale too) said the inference we had has moved away from the input frequency, so not having a PL decoder shouldn't be a problem.

I will look at the other controller a RC-1000 to see if I can put it in service later. I've had the repeater down so long, I was happy to get it working and back in use. I've made a couple of contacts and the repeater seems to work fine.

Thanks to everyone who loaned me equipment and gave me ideas on what the problem could be. Thanks to Kris, Dan, Karl, Steve and Dave for coming to the repeater site to help.

KC9MZ

Bike MS

Lewis and Clark Radio Club (LCRC) has volunteered to assist with communications for the Bike MS event in September, 2023

Bike MS is the Muscular Sclerosis 150 mile bike event occurring on September 9-10, 2023

As in the past, the event will be centered around Lewis and Clark community College in Godfrey, IL. LCRC will be using our 145.230 repeater and simplex for the event. We will need 24-36 volunteers for the event.

Radio volunteers for net control and rest stops, communicators to accompany the sag and break down vans, as well as medical and support teams.

More details are pending a meeting with The Bike MS organizers later this month. Volunteers from any club are welcome to come out and participate.

There is an official sign up process being developed as well as a schedule and position roster.

Anyone interested in participating can contact me at the following emails, and we will add you to the email list for updates.

Jim Pearson

pearson1313@yahoo.com

or

vp@k9ham.org

618-407-9533

VE Testing March 25th at the Moose Lodge

The session was canceled.

The next session will be April 22nd and we have a candidate 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 .

Here are some shorts

It's not too early to start thinking about Field Day! It's June 24th and 25th this year! The Club approved going to Pleasant Ridge Park in Fairview Heights and approved \$150 for food and expenses.

I attended a meeting in early January where the Lewis and Clark RC gave a presentation on the Bike MS event this coming September 9th and 10th. It sounds like the MS people in charge want to go back to Amateur Radio – they didn't like using the commercial radio system for one reason or another. I know five or six of our members helped out on the MS Bike event in the past, so here's an opportunity to help again. Email Jim Pearson to get on the mailing list for updates or to volunteer.

Our next test session will be April 22nd 9:30 AM, Swansea Moose Lodge.

If you're a paper collector, you might want to check out the Missouri QSO Party. There are a number of stations a crossed the state that will be signing 1X1 special event callsigns. The suffix of those calls can be used to spell "SHOWME" or "MISSOURI". Work all the stations and you can apply for a certificate for one or both phrases. Ex. Work KOS, NOH, WOO, KOW, NOM and NOE and you're work the "SHOWME" certificate! There are about 30 K0, N0 and W0 stations you can use to complete your quest! See: https://w0ma.org/mo_qso_party/results/2023/reports/moqp1x1ses.html

Don't forget the "Good Morning Net" M-F, 7-8 am by Larry, K9LWW, and Julio, AA2KF. Also the 224.12 MHz Net is on Thursdays, 7 pm by Steve, W9ZS and Tim KD9TRP has a 444.625 MHz at 7 pm on Wednesdays. Thank you guys for running these fine nets!

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

I hope you can attend the next meeting on March 30th at 8pm CST. Please pray for peace in Ukraine!

73 es gud DX,

Randy, KC9MZ

Please patronize our supporters!



Bike MS is the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's biggest fund raising event. The 2023 event will be the Gateway Chapter's 39th year, and it has grown to raise over \$1,000,000 annually to fund research that will hopefully lead to a cure for this devastating disease.

This year's ride will be held on Saturday and Sunday September 9-10 and is based at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey. Routes in Madison, Jersey and Macoupin Counties range from 25 to 100 miles each day and are shown on the attached map. Over 1,000 cyclists are expected to participate.

For many years, amateur radio provided communications support for the ride. The event was cancelled in 2020 when COVID hit and key local staff members were laid off. The final decision to hold an event in 2021 was not made until late spring and instead of having a local logistics manager the staff person in Chicago was tasked to coordinate logistics for the event. She had used a communications system based on cellular technology for her events and decided to use it here also. In 2022 there were several staff changes and the decision was made to use that system again. It worked well but was very expensive and staff would like to return to using amateur radio for communications.

What we would like from the club is two coordinators, one for volunteer matters and another to handle the technical aspects. The volunteer coordinator would recruit the volunteers and work with the MS Staff Volunteer Manager to make sure all documentation was completed. The technical coordinator would make sure all needed equipment was set up, tested and ready for the event. Both coordinators would work together to review and update instructions and provide training if needed before the event.

This year, we anticipate twelve mobile communicators will be needed:

- eight SAG vehicles (crew cab pickup trucks)
- one shuttle team (15 passenger and cargo vans running together)
- one supply teams
- two shadow communicators

Vehicles and drivers will be provided.

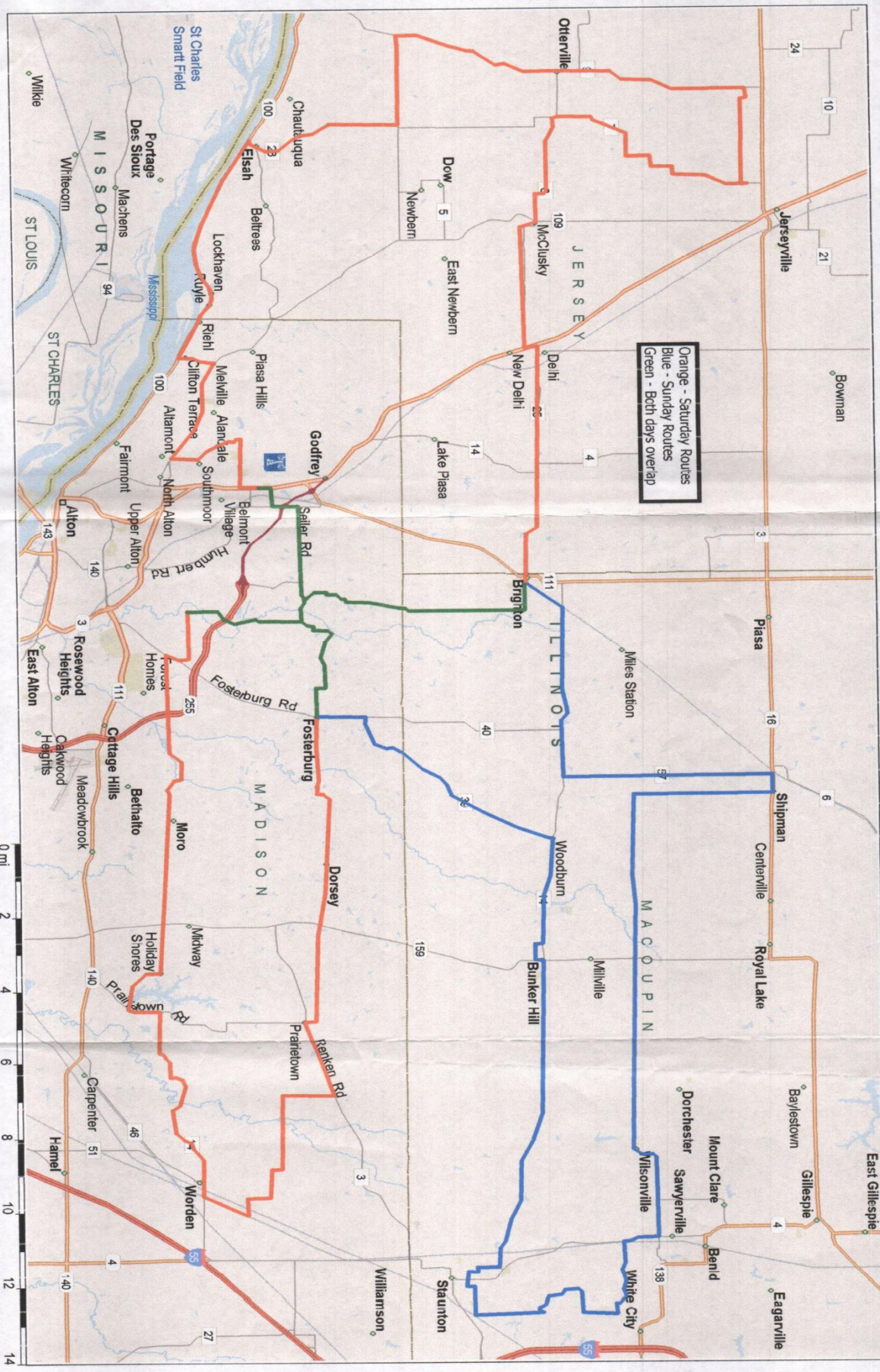
There will be eight rest stops on Saturday and six on Sunday. One communicator would be stationed at the medical tent on the campus and three experienced net control operators would be needed. I would be in net control, along with staff and the SAG coordinator.

Net Control will be located in the Ringhausen Music Building on campus and will be in operation from 5:30 am to approximately 6:00 pm each day.

The primary contact and liaison with MS staff would be the volunteer Route Support Team Coordinator:

Al Guise
KD0BFG
314-496-7601
alguise01@yahoo.com

MS23 both days for comm



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