

# St Clair Amateur Newsletter

October 2025

PO Box 94, Belleville, IL 62222

[www.scarc.net](http://www.scarc.net)

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

## Club Officers

President – Randy Bastian  
KC9MZ (618) 973-6379  
rbkc9mz ---gmail.com

Vice Pres – Michael Petz  
KA9HNT  
ka9hnt---gmail.com

Secretary –Kris Crockett  
KD9VRT Kris---  
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Treasurer - Bob Thurgood  
WA9TUG (618) 239-9847  
wa9tug---arrrl.net

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

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

Publicity Activist – Dean, K9JDW  
Jameswrgh362---gmail.com

## VE Test Coordinator

Randy Bastian, KC9MZ

## Repeater Committee

Dale Wentz, KB9JJA, Project Manager  
Dan Crockett, KD9ADB  
Andre Van Klavern, KD9RFE  
Michael Petz, KA9HNT  
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.)

## Crystals



KC9MZ photo

Three common crystal types left to right HC-6/u used in Collins, Drake, Heathkit and others during the 1960's – 1970's time frame. Typical 100 KC crystal used in crystal calibrators. FT-243, WW 2 surplus, very common style used in many homebrew radios from the 1940's – 1970s and commercially available equipment of the period.

When many of us started our Ham Radio adventure we were required to use transmitters whose frequency was crystal controlled. I had about 6 or 7 crystals for the 80- and 40-meter bands that I used with my EICO 720 transmitter. It seemed that everyone had the same frequency crystals that I did! One of my mentors, George WA9CEO (the other was Dave K9ZHN) showed me how to move the crystal's frequency by grinding the quartz crystal itself!

The transmitter above uses a crystal for each band to control its high frequency oscillator, so that's 14 crystals. The matching receiver uses the same for a total of 28 crystals.

## Crystals

While youtubeing the other day I ran across a very cool video on the AWA Communication Technologies Museum site: From Raw Crystal to Crystal Oscillator – Crystals go to War in 1943.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duZlWWwxIPQ>

This is a great video on how the crystals were produced, as the title says “From raw crystal to oscillator”. It’s amazing how labor intensive the manufacturing process was, I didn’t realize that much of the raw material came from Brazil!

The AWA Museum has over 200 videos, I encourage you to check them out.

Some other videos on the subject:

Grinding crystals, FT-243, Etching Crystals, Grinding FT243 crystals, Etching radio crystals by Robert Sumption “The Old Ham”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7CS4A8wB1E>

Changing a quartz crystal’s frequency with sandpaper and a pencil by VK3YE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Lv-3pauSbQ&t=438s>

Randy

KC9MZ

## VE Testing October 18<sup>th</sup>



KC9MZ photo

Anthony KE9CPW passed his General test this month, look for him signing /AG on the air!

Thank you to our VEs: Gary K9RVE, Larry K9LWW and Randy KC9MZ.

Our next Test Session is November 15<sup>th</sup>. Please let Randy, KC9MZ, know if you would like to test at kc9mz ---arrrl.net

## Operating Events, Club Events and HAMFESTS:

October 30<sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting at the Moose 8 pm

November 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> ARRL SS CW see: [Sweepstakes](#)

November 8<sup>th</sup> - Club Breakfast at O'Fallon IL Denny's

November 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> ARRL SS Phone see: [Sweepstakes](#)

November 15<sup>th</sup> VE Testing at the Moose 9:30 am

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting at the Moose 8 pm

December 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> ARRL 10 Meter Contest see: [10 Meter](#)

ARES HF Net the Illinois Section ARES HF Net meets on the first and third Sunday each month at 4:30 PM. The frequency is 7277 KHz +/- LSB **New frequency for Daylight Savings Time.**

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

Gateway 160 Meter News 1860 KHz Saturday 2200 hours

### Club Nets

The “Good Morning Net” is paused looking for new net control operator(s) on the 147.12 repeater.

But, don't give up on morning conversation! Give out a call, there seems to be many on frequency from 7 – 8:30.

Cassandra, KD9VLG is Net Control for the “Wavelengths” Net on 444.625 MHz at 7 pm on Wednesdays. The net has taken a pause in its operation.

Also, the 224.12 MHz Net is on Thursdays, 8 pm by Steve, W9ZS.

Anthony KE9CPW has started a “Happy Friday Net” at 5 pm on the 147.12 repeater. .

Thank you, guys, for running these fine nets

**Meeting Date, Time and Location:** Next month's meeting will be on November 20<sup>th</sup> (moved due to Thanksgiving) at 8 PM. 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

I hope you can attend our October meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> at 8pm, Swansea Moose.

Please send anything you might have for SCAN to rbkc9mz---gmail.com

Please pray for peace in the World!

73 es gud DX,

Randy, KC9MZ

Please patronize our supporters!

