



K9MCE Officers:

- President: Mark Lewis, KD9EFO
- Vice-President: John Nalezty, KD8KVO
- Secretary: Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF
- Treasurer: Tim Coonrod, KC9HQA
- Trustee: Skp Riba, WS9V
- Board of Directors:
- Mark Osborn, WA9SXX
- Bill Ogle, W9FJ
- Jim Pitchford, N9LQF
- Ron Ochu, KO0Z
- Webmaster: Isaac Pizzo, WX9SRV

Macoupin County ARC
129 East First Street
PO Box 253
Carlinville, IL 62626-0253

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K9MCE QSN

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2019

K9MCE Club Meeting on Wednesday 2 January



Mark your calendars now and plan on attending this month's meeting of the Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 2nd. We meet on the second floor of the Macoupin County Sheriff Department, 215 S. East Street, Carlinville, IL 62626.

Prior to the club meeting the

club has an informal dinner gathering, at the Reno's Pizza in the Carlinville square starting around 5:00 pm.

This month's presentation immediately after the business meeting

After the business meeting, FCC VE testing is offered. Call Lou,

K9LL for an appointment @ 618-977-4658. Be sure to bring a copy of your license, some pencils and a non-programmable calculator.

K9MCE Board members meeting at 6:30 pm.

K9MCE TRY GRIDS HONOR ROLL

Try Grids Certificate Of Achievement

This certificate is awarded to

Your name
Your Call



In recognition of making two way
communications using VHF/UHF
simplex frequencies with three grid
squares.



Signature K9MCE President

Date

Signature K9MCE Award Chairperson

Date

*“These club
members earned
the Try Grids
Award and are
Honor Roll
members.”*

Wayne, KC9ZYQ is in
EM58 and Dirk, W9OSI is
in EM49 and these gentle-
men are available for VHF
skeds for those working for
the Try Grids Award

HONOR ROLL MEMBERS:

Jim Pitchford, N9LQF
Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF
Jeff Naville, KC9WZO
Paul Durand, KC9YCP
Ed Kallbrier, KC9QHJ
Bill Ogle, W9FJ
Skip Riba, WS9V
Mark Lewis, KD9EFO
Lou Bartels, KC9YFU (K9LL)
Debbie Ochu, KC9ULA

Dave Reynolds, WA9OEX

Judy Reynolds, KA9ACM

Ron Ochu, KO0Z

The K9MCE Try Grids Award
was established two years ago
to encourage Macoupin County
ARC club members to experi-
ence the joys of VHF/UHF
communications. Members are
encouraged to learn more
about VHF/UHF propagation,
antennas and coax and to im-

prove their stations. Towards
that end the award was created
and the goal is to successfully
establish two-way VHF/UHF
contacts either from your
QTH or mobile with amateurs
in three grids. More infor-
mation pertaining to grids can
be found at this ARRL
webpage: [http://www.arrl.org/
grid-squares](http://www.arrl.org/grid-squares) QSL cards con-
firming the Qs need to be pre-
sented to the committee and
then you, too, will be eligible
for this prestigious accolade at
a club meeting and to have
your call inscribed in the



Macoupin County ARC Mission Statement:

We, the undersigned, being desirous of securing for ourselves the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio, by promoting civic interest, specific application, social activities and developing individual efficiency, while improving the general interest in amateur radio, do ordain and establish this Constitution and By-Laws of the Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club Inc., a non-profit corporation. We do further agree that in pursuit of these purposes, this organization shall be non-sectarian, non-partisan and that it shall lend neither support or influence to any political party or candidate for office. The Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club, Inc., shall afford all persons, regardless of race or creed an equal opportunity to join, participate, hold office and enjoy in the benefits of this organization and the challenges of amateur radio.

SKYWARN Recognition Day Turns into Activation Day

National Weather Service stations throughout the country were active on HF and VHF frequencies, on Saturday December 1, to recognize amateur radio's contribution in the SKYWARN program.

Hams activated the NWS at Lincoln, IL and St. Louis, MO.

Usually, the month of December is relatively "quiet and uneventful."

TV broadcasters called for rain on Saturday with a marginal risk of thunderstorms with the possibility of isolated severe

thunderstorms.

Around 4 pm, local time, severe thunderstorm warnings started to be issued accompanied by tornado watch and warning boxes. NWS offices in Lincoln, IL and St. Louis shifted from recognition day into SKYWARN net mode as an outbreak of 27 tornadoes peppered central Illinois.

Macoupin county's Classic Cars was struck by an EF1 tornado on Saturday afternoon. An additional three twisters hit Montgomery county. One twister damaged farm property

and the Magnuson hotel near Hwy 108 and I-55 along with Kinney Contractors before doing more damage northeast towards Raymond and onto Taylorville. Another twister did damage to farms near Butler and the other twister tracked just east of Litchfield near the water treatment plant just missing a residential area. Macoupin-Montgomery SKYWARN net was up and gave real-time reports back to the NWS during the event. Kudos to the storm spotters checking in to give weather reports!

Photos on page 8.



Good Times at Club Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 5th has come and gone, but the memories of the club's Christmas party will be with attendees all year long.

The Christmas party was held at Reno's Pizzeria and the banquet was delicious! Everyone had plenty of salad, pasta, chicken, pork and veggies to eat. For dessert, there was Tiramisu and a special cake brought by Mark, WD9HBF to celebrate the homecoming of

the Field Day Traveling Trophy.

Okaw Valley ARC, AD9OV members John King W9KXQ and cxxxxx presented the trophy to club president Mark, KD9EFO. This year, Mr. Murphy wasn't as big a factor and our FD operators put together a successful, winning effort.

Our WWII veteran Bill, W9FJ joined us and so did Wanda Riter. It was great to see them at the party. Both are doing

well.

Reno's back room was very accommodating and it allowed club members to chat and visit. Pictures can be found on pages 6-7.



"Reno's was

fantastic!

Everyone had

plenty of great

tasting salad,

pasta, chicken,

pork and veggies

to eat."

Your ARRL Central Division Contacts:

Director: Kermit Carlson; w9xa@arrrl.org 630-879-0983

Vice Director: Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, k9la@arrrl.org; 260-637-6988

Illinois Section Manager: Ron Morgan, AD9I, AD9I@comcast.net



Hombrew Night Plans for K9MCE



As reported in last month's newsletter, the club voted to bring back homebrew night.

Homebrew night does not mean homebrewing liquor, although that could be a welcome addition to a club meeting; rather, it is a reference to the DIY (do-it-yourself) ham radio community.

Homebrew night is sure to be one of the agenda topics for this month's meeting. There was initial conversation of the club awarding categorical prizes for homebrewed/kit in trans-

ceiver category, antenna category and shack accessory category.

A shack accessory could be a keyer, microphone, swr bridge, watt meter, logging program, etc.

Let's see who's interested in forming a committee and working out details and making plans.

West Central Illinois Hamfest Committee To Meet

*"The West
Central Illinois
Hamfest is ARRL
sanctioned and
on the calendar!"*

Wishing to build upon the past few years success of increasing attendance and making our hamfest one that hams will want to make a point of attending, the West Central Illinois Hamfest Committee is making plans to meet. One suggestion is for Sunday, February 10th at 3:00 pm at the Chinese restaurant in Litchfield. It's the same place committee members met last year.

This year's hamfest chairman is

Ken Norris KK9N from the Okaw Valley ARC. Our hamfest was approved by ARRL Central Division Director, Kermit Carlson W9XA which means that the West Central Illinois Hamfest is ARRL sanctioned and already on the ARRL hamfest calendar.

This is beneficial because of the generous ARRL prizes, but it also is a calendar that hamfest vendors look at while planning their yearly calendars. Hope-

fully, our hamfest's growing reputation will influence vendors to make the trek to Carlinville, IL.

The ARCH helicopter is already scheduled for another fly-in and another slate of dynamic presentations is in the planning stages.

Stay tuned!

Upcoming ARES QT Meeting



Macoupin-Montgomery County ARES will meet on Saturday, January 19 at 10 am in the board room of the Macoupin County Sheriff Office complex.

Anyone with an interest in EmCom, Public Service events and Skywarn is invited to attend. ARES membership is not a prerequisite for attendance.

A meeting agenda will be emailed to members in the upcoming week.

Some of the agenda topics include IDEN node, WinLink, ARES Connect and a debriefing of the December 1st central Illinois tornado outbreak.

Typically, meetings last 90 to 120 minutes in duration.

Afterwards, anyone interested in lunch can meet in Carlinville for good food and company.



NWS Storm Spotter Training This Month



Hopefully, the December 1st, central Illinois tornado outbreak is fresh in your mind and you heard for yourself the importance of trained storm

spotting ham radio operators participating in Skywarn to give accurate, timely, ground-truth observations back to the NWS meteorologists. Hams provide a vital link to the NWS with the ultimate goal of saving lives through early warning. Ham radio is one of the facets of the NWS mission of creating a "Weather Ready Nation."

Towards this goal, NWS-St. Louis will offer storm spotting classes at Blackburn College Auditorium (Bothwell Hall) on Tuesday, January 22 at 7:00 to

9:00 pm. Anyone with an interest in severe weather and wishing to be involved with the Macoupin-Montgomery County Skywarn program is urged to attend. This class should afford us to meet our new WCM, Warning Coordination Meteorologist Kevin Dietsch.

Kevin was appointed to the WCM position when Jim Kramper retired last March.

More information and other storm spotting classes can be found on page 14.



Club Website Update

The club website, www.k9mce.org is part of Go Daddy's service for which the club pays a very reasonable, annual fee. Club webmaster, Isaac Pizzo WX9SRV is a very busy individual and he uses an "ancient laptop and software program that does not run on Windows 10. Consequently, Isaac is limited as to when he can update the club website in terms of accessing his computer and time he can devote to making updates.

However, there is good news. Isaac has been experimenting with a web based design program that will allow others to access the website content if that is the direction the club would like to take.

This would give club more latitude to get timely, topical information out to members and the ham radio community.

In addition to a club's newsletter, a club's website is another

indicator of a club's involvement and enthusiasm.

This would make an excellent agenda item for the club's board of directors and a possible club presentation as to the future of our club website.

"A club's website is another indicator of a club's involvement and enthusiasm."



Area 2 Meter SSB Net a Success



The 2 meter SSB net continues to grow in popularity! The net started off with 4 check-ins and now has nine. Besides area ops, Tennessee and Alabama check-in regularly as does Odin, IL!

The net meets on Thursdays at 7:30 pm on 144.200 USB. We use horizontally polarized antennas, but ops with vertical antennas are welcome to check-in. Keep in mind that there's at least a 20 dB loss of signal strength between cross-polarized antennas.

Here's hoping to hear you on the air!

CHRISTMAS PARTY PHOTO ESSAY





December 1, 2018 Tornado Outbreak



Photo by Dirk W9OSI of a classic, supercell thunderstorm. The photo was taken just south of Shipman, IL, looking east towards Litchfield, approximately 25 miles away. A tornado can be seen within the square, red box at the south-west corner of the supercell. The photo below (W9OSI photo) is an enlargement of the area within the square, red box which clearly shows the confirmed tornado on the ground, Saturday, December 1st, approximately 3:45 pm.





Magnuson Grand Hotel, front parking lot tornado damage.



The rear of the Magnuson Grand suffered more extensive tornado damage.



Rear of the Magnuson Grand hotel.



More tornado damage on the west side of the Magnuson.



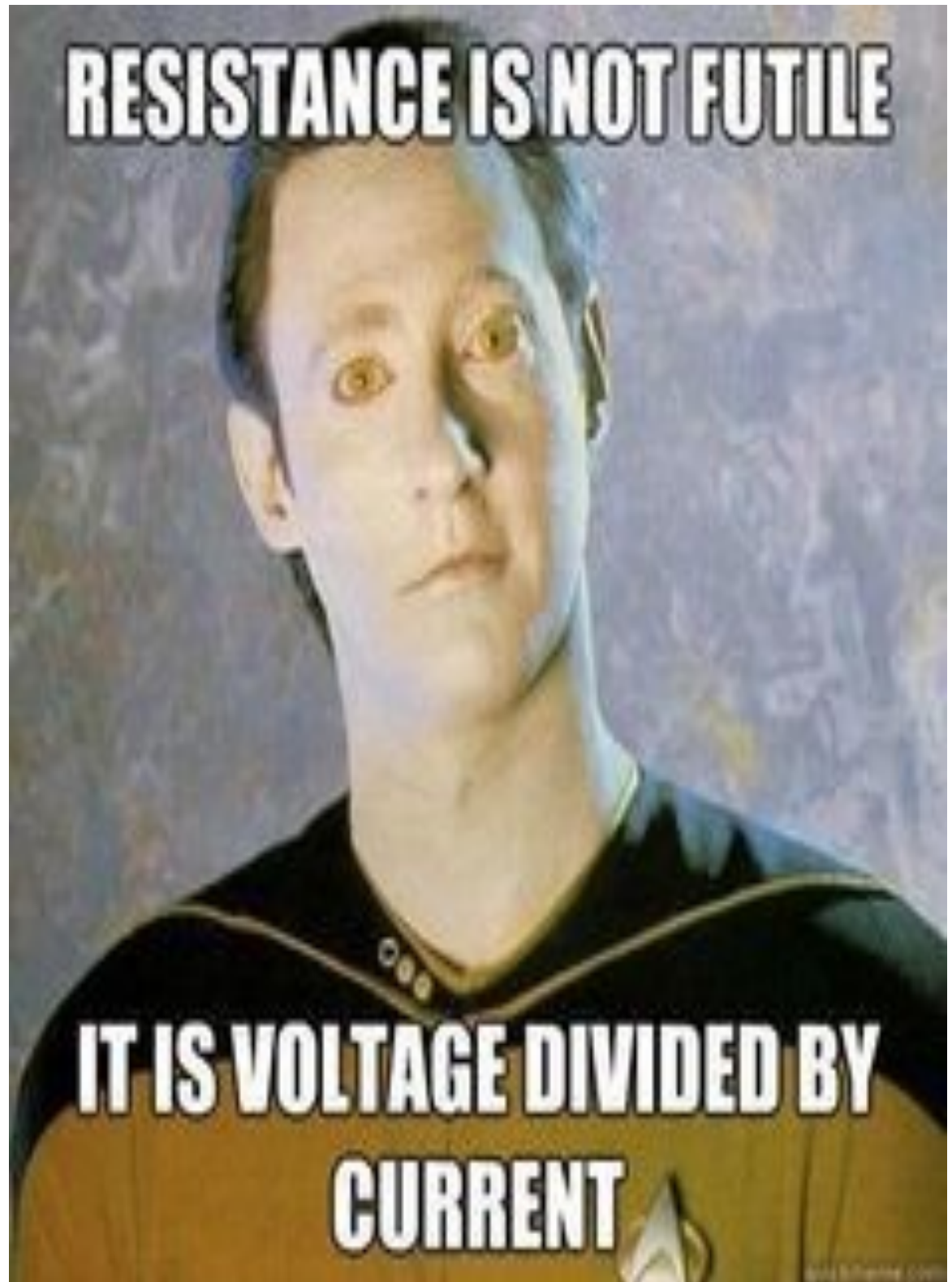
Farm home just west of Raymond, IL with trees down and a destroyed garage. One of three tornadoes in Montgomery County.



Left photo:
Damage in
Taylorville, IL.

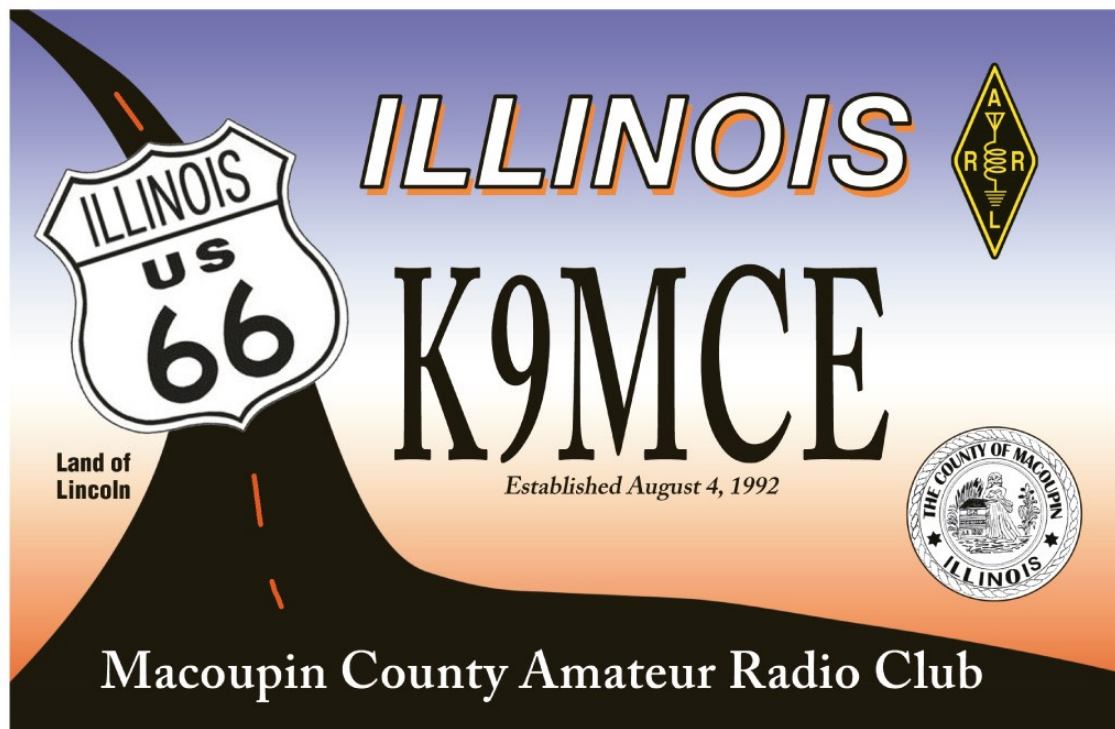
Right Photo:
damage to
Kinney Con-
tractors along
I-55 and IL
108.





K9MCE's New QSL card

Club members authorized the purchase of QSL cards. The club ordered 1000, full-color, high gloss card stock QSL cards from The QSL Shop in Germany. Total cost including shipping to the club is \$120.00



K9MCE

Macoupin County ARC
129 East First Street
PO Box 253
Carlinville, IL 62626-0253
USA

☐ /p ☐ /m



VIA

TO RADIO

CONFIRMING ☐ OUR QSO ☐ YOUR SWL REPORT

DATE			TIME UTC	FREQUENCY MHz	2-WAY QSO IN	REPORT		
D	M	Y				R	S	T

TRX	WATTS	ANT

☐ PSE QSL ☐ TNX QSL

73

GRID EM59BG · STATE ILLINOIS · CQ4 · ITU 8
MACOUPIN COUNTY

www.QSLSHOP.com



HF Antenna Ideas...

End-fed antenna system

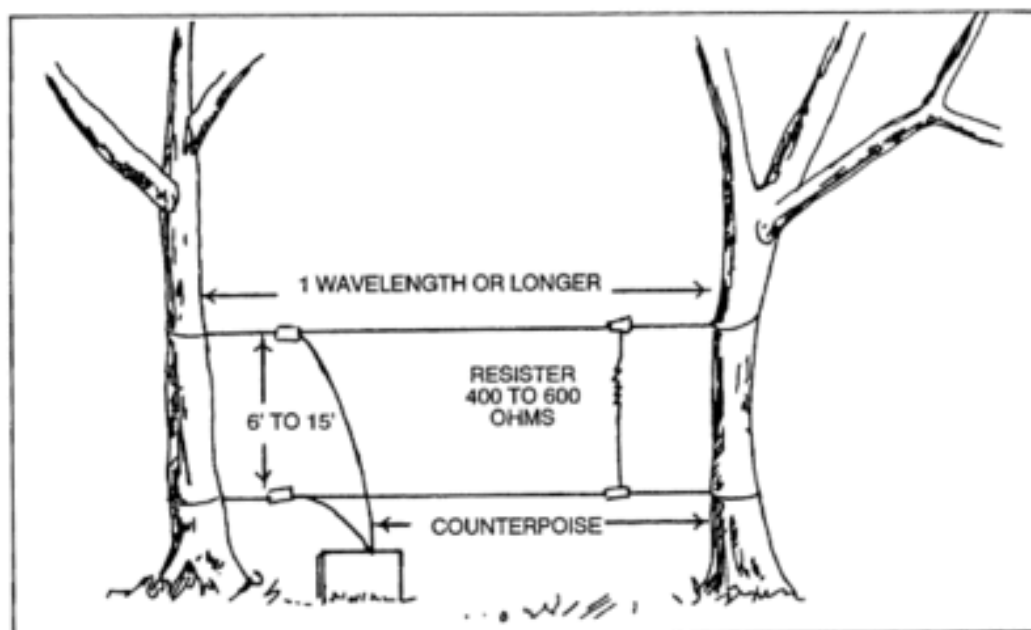
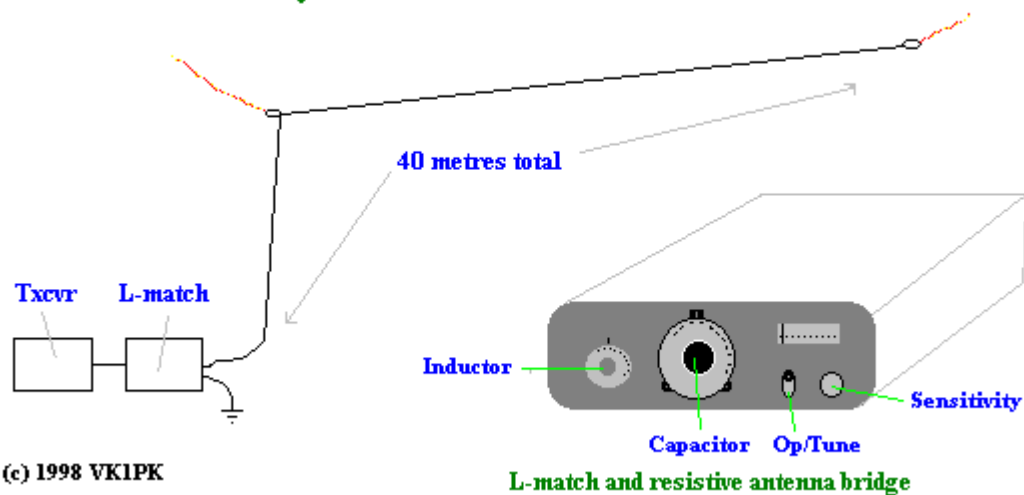


Figure D-11. Long-wire antenna.

**AM I THE ONLY
ONE WONDERING IF THAT WILL**



TUNE UP ON 80 METERS?



EMA

Emergency Management Agency/911

2019 Weather Spotter / Storm Ready Training

National Weather Service out of St Louis will be conducting Skywarn Training in our three county area in January, February and March.

January 22, 2019: Macoupin County at Blackburn College, Bothwell Hall - 7PM to 9PM address: 700 College Avenue, Carlinville, Illinois 62626

February 12, 2019: Montgomery County at Lincoln Land Community College, - 7PM to 9PM address: #1 Lincoln Land Drive, Litchfield, Illinois 62056

March 2, 2019: Madison County at Lewis & Clark Community College Library – 10AM to Noon address 5800 Godfrey Road, Godfrey, Illinois 62035

Spotter Training and knowledge about severe weather events and what to do when you get information or have information to share is a key to public safety. Weather related events is and will always be the major threat to all of our communities and families. This training is open to all, so come to this training and review your weather ready planning and response. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season.

Montgomery County EMA

Director, Greg Nimmo

120 N Main St, Hillsboro, IL 62049

217-532-9560 / gregn@montgomeryco.com



The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club

Winterfest 2019

January 26, 2019 at the Gateway Convention Center, One Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234.

We are announcing that advance tickets are now available for purchase online at the SLSRC Store. Save \$2.00 by purchasing them online, in advance. To purchase tickets/tables visit <http://www.slsrc.org/shop/>.

Prizes for 2019 include:

Grand Prize	\$500
1st Prize	\$300
2nd Prize	\$200
3rd Prize	\$100

New for 2019 (See Winterfest website for more details):

Forum Speaker is Richard George, KD4CAE - on AUXCOMM and Amateur Radio
Winterfest will continue to have VE testing at 8:00am, courtesy of the Cliff Cave Testing Team.

Additional Information:

Tables and tickets:	http://www.slsrc.org/shop/
Information:	http://winterfest.slsrc.org/
Contact us:	winterfest@slsrc.org
	-or-

Rebecca Carroll, KC9CIJ



Dave O'Dell LUTCF
145 E. Jackson St., Virden, IL 62690
217-965-5888
Annuities, Auto, Financial Planning,
Home, Life & Mutual Funds

Longtime supporter of the West Central Illinois Hamfest!

K9MCE QSN Contact Information:

K9MCE QSN is a monthly publication of the Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club. Our club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm on the second floor of the Macoupin County Sheriff Department in Carlinville, IL

Editor: Ron Ochu, KO0Z. ronochu.sky@gmail.com

Repeaters: 444.250 (103.5 pl); 146.865 (103.5 pl).

Website: www.k9mce.org

Webmaster: Isaac Pizzo, WX9SRV

Testing: Lou Bartels, KC9YFU, 618-977-4658



Macoupin County
Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 253
Carlinville, IL 62626-
0253

K9MCE January 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 Old Capital ARC, Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm 	2 Club meeting 7 pm 	3 Macoupin County ARES Net, KO0Z net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm	4	5 ARRL RTTY Roundup Kids Day
6 Okaw Valley ARC Net@9:00 pm, 444.250 K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm ARRL RTTY Roundup	7 Lewis & Clark ARC, K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7) W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820	8 Old Capital ARC, Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm	9	10 Macoupin County ARES Net, KO0Z net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm	11	12 North American QSO Party CW
13 Okaw Valley ARC Net@9:00 pm, 444.250 K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm North American QSO Party CW	14 Lewis & Clark ARC, K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7) W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820	15 Old Capital ARC, Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm	16	17 Macoupin County ARES Net, KO0Z net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm	18	19 North American QSO Party SSB ARRL VHF Contest
20 Okaw Valley ARC Net@9:00 pm, 444.250 K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm North American QSO Party SSB, VHF Contest	21 Lewis & Clark ARC, K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7) W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820	22 Old Capital ARC, Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm	23	24 Macoupin County ARES Net, KO0Z net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm	25 CQ WW 160- Meter Contest CW	26 CQ WW 160- Meter Contest CW
27 Okaw Valley ARC Net@9:00 pm, 444.250 K9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm CQ WW 160-Meter Contest CW	28 Lewis & Clark ARC, K9HAM 8 pm 145.23 (79.7) W9VEY Memorial Net @8:30 pm, 146.820	29 Old Capital ARC, Vandalia, 146.745, 88.5 pl, 8:00 pm	30	31 Macoupin County ARES Net, KO0Z net control 147.480 MHz simplex @ 8pm K9MCE Club net, WD9HBF Net Control, 444.250 @8:30 pm		

