



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 10

October 2019

K9MCE Club Meeting on Wednesday 2 October



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, October 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, this month, at the Reno's Pizza in the Carlinville square starting around 5:00 pm.

The program, this month, is Ron KO0Z's latest microwave expedition "I-70 Odyssey."

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 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 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.

Tri-County ARES Update

"Ham Cram" is an intense, 8 hour Technician license course spread out over one evening and a full day culminating in a VE exam session. Greene county held "Ham Cram" on Thursday evening September 12 and Saturday the 14th. Two students attended the course, with one earning a Technician license and the other oh so close! Greene county ARES Emergency Coordinator Jeff Naville, KC9WZO and Macoupin County Emergency Coordinator Ron Ochu KO0Z co-taught the course. Students are strongly urged to download

a study guide and to read it beforehand. The course can be overwhelming with the sheer amount of material presented in such a short time period so homework and questions are vital to overall success.

Montgomery county also planned on having a "Ham Cram," but Montgomery county Emergency Coordinator Mark Lewis came down with a nasty cold and the course was postponed to November.

Macoupin County Health Department is once again holding

a Flu Clinic on Wednesday, October 9th in the afternoon. Communications volunteers are needed for this event that is used to simulate a mass immunization event.

Illinois is holding its simulated emergency test (SET) SET: Fractured Prairie, October 25-26, "Big exercise with lots of moving pieces." Injects, etc. Macoupin county ARES is planning to activate both hospitals and to pass traffic to EMA coordinator Jim Pitchford N9LQF via FM simplex.



Next ARES Quarterly meeting will be at Beaver Dam State Park restaurant on Sunday, October 20th at Noon. All are invited.

Beaver Dam Dash in November

Thinking about trying something new in ham radio? Thinking about developing or tweaking your public service related communications skills? Looking for a fun, low-key public service related event?

The Beaver Dam Dash on Saturday, November 9th is just the event for you! The event is usually done before noon and afterwards we go get lunch at a restaurant in Carlinville.

Typically, we need six hams with HTs, but we could use more hams along the 5K and 7K route throughout the state park.

The running club appreciates our club providing communications and the runners are glad that we volunteer our time and equipment to add to the efficiency and safety along the course. The running club is a great family, health oriented club!



We need 6 to 8 ops with HTs for the Dash!

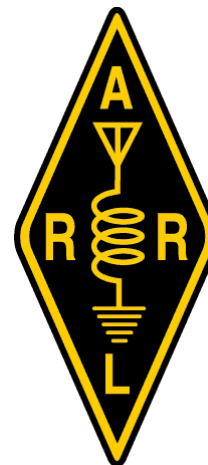
"Please consider joining us for the Beaver Dam Dash!" on November 9th."

Your ARRL Central Division Contacts:

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

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

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



IL SET: “Fractured Prairie” in October



EMERGENCY RESPONSE SIMULATION

SET is an acronym for Simulated Emergency Test. We had a SET in spring and soon it will be time for the IL fall SET on October 25-26, 2019.

The IL fall SET entitled “Fractured Prairie in October” will involve quite a few moving parts on the federal, state and local levels.

As radio amateurs it is our duty to be prepared for an emergency eventuality. According to FCC Part 97.1 rules: (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary

noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

That means as FCC licensed radio amateurs, we need to prepare. Hence the need for simulated emergency tests.

The SET’s real purpose is to identify not only our successes, but even more importantly, our failures as well. The next after identifying any failures is to take steps to mitigate them and to improve on any successes.

Although plans at our county level are in the early stages, we do plan to activate Macoupin county’s two hospitals and to get every corner of the county on the air. We will have interjects as part of our involvement.

October is K9MCE Election Time

K9MCE’s Constitution calls for elections of club officers and board members at the October meeting. At our September meeting a slate of officers nominated for 2020 was finalized:

President: Mark Lewis
KD9EFO

Vice-President: John Nalezty,
KD8KVO

Secretary: Mark Kerhlikar
WD9HBF

Treasurer: Tim Coonrod

KC9HQA

Vice-President of Emergency Communications: Jim Pitchford
N9LQF

Trustee: Skip Riba WS9V

Board of Directors: Ron Ochu
3 year term.

Chuck Baker N9LVY 1 year term.

Board member Bill Ogle’s
W9FZ seat is open and he is not running due to health con-

cerns.

Club business will also include purchase of the WS9V repeater system from Skip. Every club member’s input is needed on this issue. This motion to purchase the repeater will be a major club purchase along with a commitment to service and maintain the repeater.



*“Your Vote is
Needed at this
month’s club
meeting.”*

Macoupin County Flu Clinic Date Set

Macoupin County



Public Health Department

Macoupin County Public Health Department set **Wednesday, October 9th** for its annual flu clinic this year. In the past,

K9MCE has helped with communications. The Flu Clinic takes place at the county fairgrounds and visitors are di-

rected along a route that eventually leads to the Bates Building where the shots are administered.

Club members provide communications to ensure a safe, efficient traffic flow is maintained. Of course, we need your communications help! Even if you can only volunteer an hour that will be helpful. All you need is a lawn chair, water and a radio. Hours for the event are being determined.



Club Dues are Due This Month

MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's that time of year again...time to once again pay dues. According to the club's constitution, annual dues become due at the October meeting. Club Dues are as follows:

Regular membership is \$20.00/year.

Family membership is \$25.00/year.

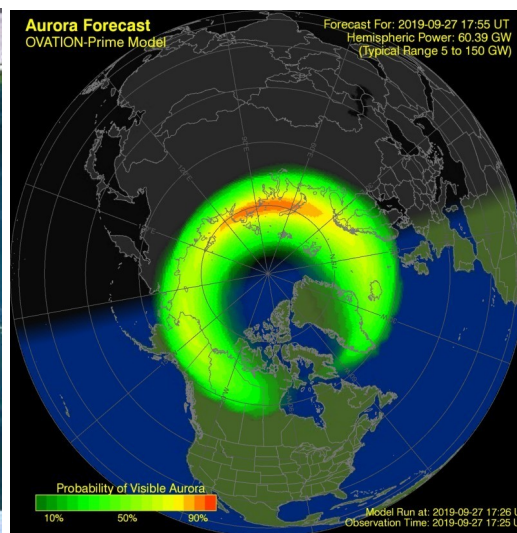
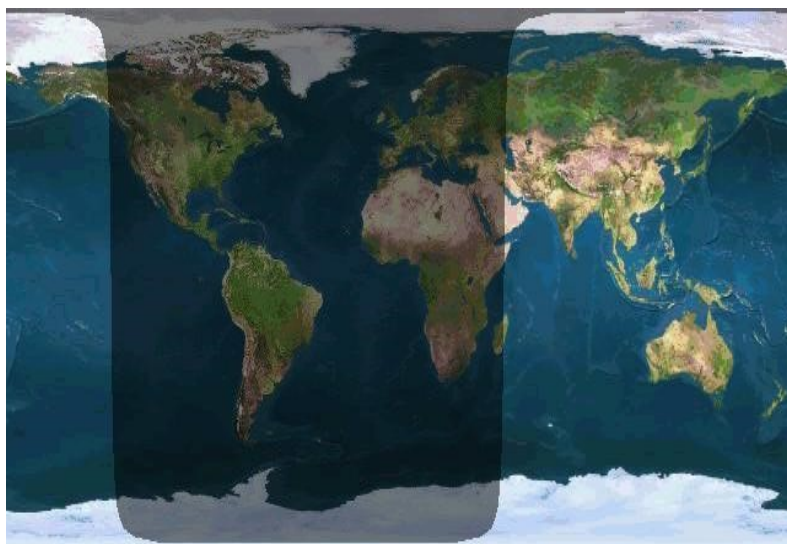
Senior membership is \$15.00/year.

Full-time Student is \$10.00/year

Lifetime membership is \$200.00.

Checks are payable to Macoupin County ARC.

Autumnal Equinox and Greyline



The graphics above taken from the propagation website: <https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/> illustrates very nicely our Earth's autumnal equinox. Equinox means equal day and night. The shade area over the Americas represents nightfall and the rest is in daylight. The boundary between day and night is known as greyline. Greyline is either dawn or dusk. HF propagation along the greyline; especially, on the low HF bands is more pronounced. As illustrated, dusk over the Americas would be good for Easter Island in the Pacific, Alaska, but on the dawn side the Middle East, eastern Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia would be serviced by the greyline. DX tends to be better a few weeks before and after an equinox.

One More DMR Update

By Ron KO0Z

To be honest, I think most club newsletter editors, at some time or another, wonder if anyone truly reads their monthly newsletter. I am happy to report that this newsletter is not only read, but it provides reader feedback. Last month, I wrote my DMR experience at that time in DMR Update." I'd like to express my sincere thanks to Brad Andrews KB9BPF for responding to my article and for providing me with very helpful suggestions to tackle my DMR hotspot issue.

Readers may recall from last month, that I purchased a MMDVM hotspot, from Ebay back in June. It wasn't until August that I finally got around to playing with it. In my attempt to further educate myself on the issues with my MMDVM hotspot, I found out that they are commonly referred to as "Chinaspots"; since, almost all of them are built in China. Long story short, some of them work and some of them don't. Unfortunately, waiting two months to work with my Chinaspot, put it well beyond the return time for a defective part. My "Chinaspot" raspberry pi works, but the RF deck did not. I could have purchased another RF board, but that was almost the entire cost of another hotspot. Then there was the waiting time and no guarantee that this one would work.



A typical MMDVM Ebay open spot.



The Raspberry Pi board is on the bottom and the defective RF board is on top.

After determining that the RF section was bad, I took Brad's suggestion and purchased from Ham Radio Outlet their "Zumspot." HRO has a guarantee with their product and it comes equipped with a preprogrammed microSD card. Unfortunately, Murphy struck again and my microSD card failed to work. Evidently, SanDisk microSD cards have issues according to my internet research. My defective card gets quite hot to the touch when powered up. When I flashed another microSD card and installed it in my Zumspot, I am happy to report that the zumspot came to life and as evidenced in the picture, it is connected to talk group TAC 310. A zumspot allows me to connect to other digital talk groups without having to depend on a DMR repeater.

I'd like to personally thank Brad KB9BPF for taking the time to respond to my article and for tolerating and for answering my many newbie questions!



KO0Z's operational DMR Zumspot from HRO. Note the OLED is working!



The micro SD memory card (red/white card) next to the USB adapter used to flash a Raspberry Pi "image." Two of my SanDisk cards proved to be defective.

Illinois QSO Party Anyone?



The Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club W9AWE -- W9OAB sponsors the Illinois QSO Party. Unlike most state QSO parties that operate an entire week-end; the IL QSO Party lasts for 8 hours beginning at 17:00 Z on Sunday, October 20th and ending at 01:00 Z on Monday, October 21. In other words, local time, the contest begins Sunday, October 20th at noon and ends at 8 pm on Sunday, October 20th. Weird start and finish times, but it is what it is.

The QSO party's objective is for Illinois hams to make as many QSOs with other Illinois stations, other states and DX on 160 through 2 meters **except** for 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters.

Exchange: IL stations give RST and county; others give RST and state, province, or country. Scoring: Count 1 point per phone QSO, 2 points per CW/digital QSO. No repeater QSOs. All stations are limited to one transmitted signal at a time. SO2R operation is permitted. Stations may be worked once per band and mode (phone and CW/digital), and once per band/mode/county for IL Mobile and Rover stations. Each Mobile or Rover vehicle is considered one station and must use only one call. Contacts with/by stations at the border of 2 counties count as 2 counties and 2 QSOs; the border of 3 (or 4) counties count as 3 (or 4) counties and 3 (or 4) QSOs. IL stations multiply points by the sum of states, IL counties, VE provinces, and a maximum of 5 DXCC countries (for this event W/K, Alaska, Hawaii and VE do not count as DX entities). Count additional DX for QSO points but not for additional multipliers. Non-IL stations multiply points by number of IL counties worked.

Entry Classes:

Illinois Fixed Station, High Power: Permanent station location, single county, with a transmitter output power level exceeding 200W PEP.

Illinois Fixed Station, Low Power: Permanent station location, single county, with a transmitter output power level not exceeding 200W PEP.

Illinois Portable: Not a permanent station location; antennas erected for the purpose of the contest; may be on a county line or corner. (Note: County lines established by waterways may not be activated in the ILQP.)

Illinois Mobile: Stations capable of motion while operating though may be stationary. Entrants are encouraged to utilize a separate driver and to choose operating procedures with safety uppermost in mind! Mobile entrants may operate from only one county at a time. Simultaneous operation from more than one county will result in reclassification to "Rover" category. **Illinois Rover:** Stations operating from more than one non-permanent location. Single county, county line and county corner operation is permitted. Any type of mobile or portable antennas may be used. Any power source may be used (auto, generator or commercial mains). Rover stations may operate while moving or stopped.

For more information go to the W9AWE website: <http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP%202019%20Rules.pdf>





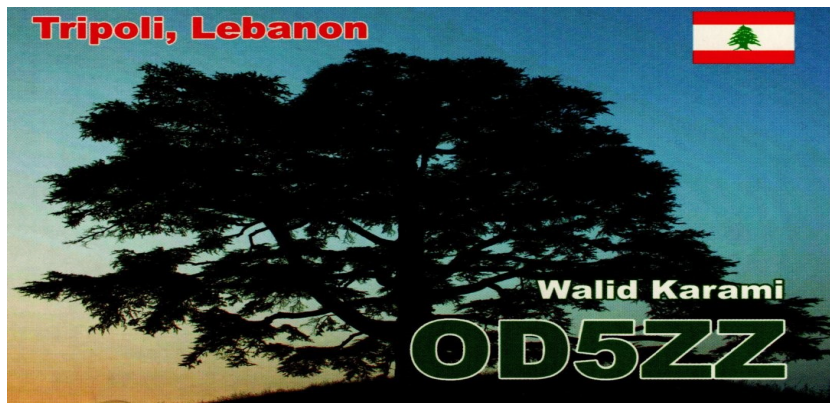
"Mr. Nelson...I'm afraid you will have to leave the air for a while during this procedure."



"How can I possibly annoy you by disappearing into my radio shack for hours on end?"

QSL Card Corner

Every month, I'd like to feature a QSL card that has an interesting story. It could be your very first QSL card ever received and the card may commemorate a 2 meter QSO with a ham two blocks away! It could be your very first CW or SSB QSO. Maybe, your first DX QSO. Contact Ron KO0Z with your QSL card information and get it included in a future issue of K9MCE QSN! So far, I've heard some club members wishing to share a QSL, but I haven't seen any photos or scans in my mailbox....



This QSL card from Lebanon was made with KO0Z on April 8, 2015 using SSB on 20 meters at 0424 Z.



New Caledonia was made with KO0Z using CW on 10 meters on October 27, 2015 at 2319 Z.



KO0Z received a surprising number of QSL cards for participating in the ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim 150th birthday celebration last month!

Do you have a QSL card that means a lot to you? Why not share it along with its story to KO0Z. Ron's email is ronochu.sky@gmail.com. Photo copy the card or take a picture of it with your phone and send it to Ron.

Antenna Ideas...

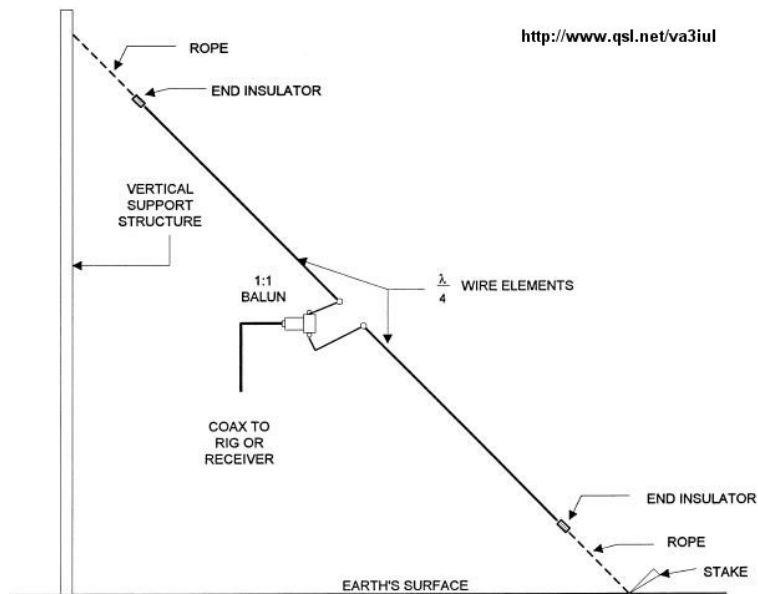


Figure A

Figure A depicts a dipole antenna in a sloped configuration. The advantage of this configuration is only one support is required.

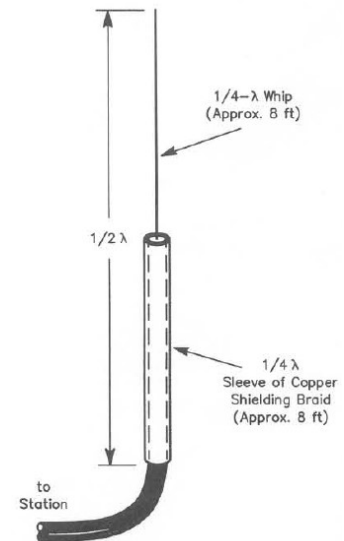
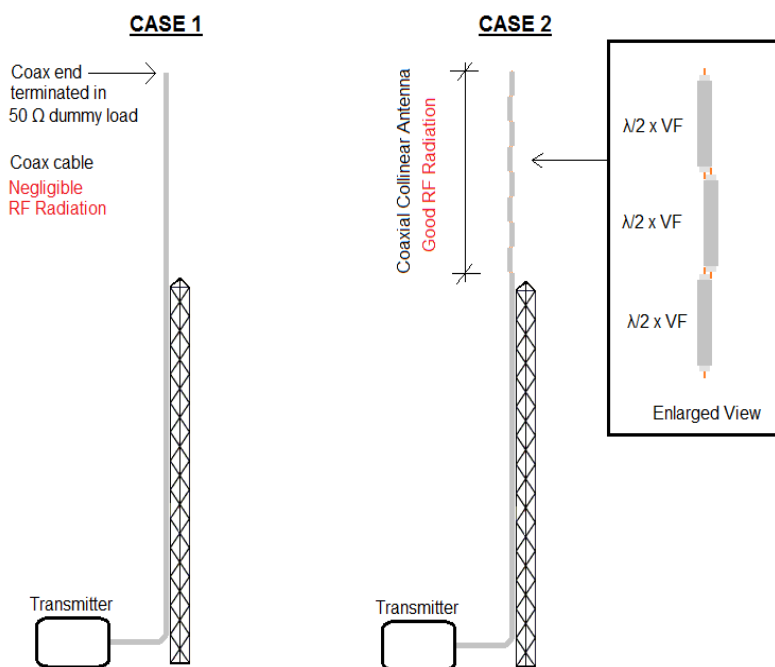


Figure B

Figure B is a great way to make an antenna; especially, in a pinch with nothing but coax.



The antenna in Case 2 is interesting. By simply using coax, an antenna can be made. Examine the Enlarged view. The center conductor is connected to a shield in the connecting coaxial sleeve. The enlarged view is the actual antenna even though it is made out of coax cable.



28th Annual Halloween Hamfest

Saturday October 26, 2019
Kirkwood Community Center



111 S Geyer Road, Kirkwood, MO



Doors open at 7:30 AM – Hourly prize drawings
Main drawing 12:00 PM Prizes #1-\$300 #2-\$200 #3-\$100 #4-TBA
Talk-in 147.150 rpt r pl=141.3 --- GPS 38.34.848N x 090.25.004W

| <u>TABLES</u> | <u>FOOD</u> | <u>TICKETS</u> |
|---|--|--|
| \$15.00 for Private no electric \$15.00 for Vendor or electric 100 tables Reserve early! | Breakfast Made To Order Best Food in the Midwest VE Exams at 8:30AM | In Advance \$4.00 or 3 for \$10.00 At the Door \$7.00 or 2 for \$12.00 Plenty of Free Parking |

For more information see; www.halloweenhamfest.org
 Table orders **Janelle Brisbine** [n0mti.jh@gmail.com](mailto:n0mti.n0mti.jh@gmail.com)
 General questions Steve Welton W0SLW 314-941-8500




WINTERFEST 2020

* JAN 25th * GATEWAY CONVENTION CENTER * 8 AM - 4 PM *

winterfest.slsrc.org

* FRIDAY JAN 24th DX & ARRL BANQUET *

* SATURDAY JAN 25th CONTEST COLLEGE *








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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 October 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 SSB NET 144.200 7:30 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 |
| 6 Okaw Valley ARC Net@9:00 pm, 444.250 N9MAF Net 146.805 @ 9 pm | 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 Macoupin County Flu Clinic-Volunteers needed!  | 10 SSB NET 144.200 7:30 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 |
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Nets