

VCARA

# CONNECTION

Vermilion County Amateur Radio Association



June 2010

## Order Your IRCs Online at USPS Web Site

05/26/2010

Many hams have long complained about difficulties they have encountered when purchasing International Reply Coupons (IRC) from their local post offices. Now the US Postal Service (USPS) has made it easier to get those IRCs to send with your direct QSL cards -- order them online from the USPS Web site. The USPS ships all in-stock domestic orders for stamps and retail items within 1 business day via Priority Mail with Delivery Confirmation or First Class Mail. Shipments should arrive within 3-5 business days. All stamp orders are charged a \$1 handling fee, regardless of the order amount. IRCs purchased from the USPS, whether online or in person at a post office, cost \$2.10 each.

International reply coupons (IRCs) provide foreign addressees with a prepaid means of responding to inquiries, solicitations, or other types of communications that are initiated by US senders. IRCs are exchangeable for postage stamps by postal administrations in member countries of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Each IRC is equivalent in value to the destination country's minimum postage price for an unregistered airmail letter. According to the UPU, some 2.2 million reply coupons are sold each year by 121 postal administrations. While not all countries sell IRCs, all the postal operators of the UPU's 191 member countries, and their territories, are required to exchange them.

More than a century after it first appeared in 1907, the IRC remains a useful item. Aside from its traditional use for correspondence, according to the UPU, two particular groups of users have emerged: Students who use them as a means of exchanging correspondence with academic institutions, and Amateur Radio enthusiasts, who use coupons when exchanging their QSL cards.

As of October 11, 2007, only those IRCs that have been printed by the UPU may be redeemed at US post offices. The valid version of the international reply coupons printed by the UPU is approximately 3.75 inches by 6 inches, has a bar code on the back and an expiration date of December 31, 2013. This policy is for those IRCs issued by the United States, as well as for those issued by foreign postal administrations.



**Join us at**  
VCARA Club House  
Woodbury Hill  
Danville, IL  
**June 14, 2010**



**2009/2010**

**Officers**

**President:**

**Josh Kittle N9WEW**  
josh@kittle.com

**Vice President:**

**Jim Walker KB9LLH**  
mamapapa506@sbcglobal.net

**Secretary:**

**Tom Mills NU9R**  
kg4dqj@yahoo.com

**Treasurer:**

**Bill McNew N9RI**  
n9riv@sbcglobal.net

**Past President:**

**Kathy Tucker KD5GPR**  
gkt6399@aol.com

**Trustee:**

**Don Russell WA9EIC**  
wa9eic@gmail.com

**Connection Editor**

**Tuck Miller, NF9T**  
nf9t@arrl.org



# Minutes of the May 2010 Meeting



The meeting convened at 7:15 PM @ the Clubhouse

1. April Minutes approved - W9JUG Motion, KB9ZMF 2nd
2. present were:

N9WEW KB9LLH NU9R N9RIV NF9T KC9PDX  
KA9LNJ KB9ZMF W9JUG WA9WJG WD9EWU N0YHH  
WA6MHZ

3. Treasurer's Report

4. **Checking Account**

Beginning Balance:	\$ 41.45
Transfer from Savings	\$ 100.00
Chk 1218 - Ameren	\$ 60.07
Chk 1219 - Cook Tech	\$ 25.00
Ending Balance:	\$ 56.38

**Savings Account**

Beginning Balance:	\$1042.01
Transfer to Checking	\$ 100.00
Ending Balance:	\$ 942.01

**Hamfest Account**

Beginning Balance:	\$1959.13
Ending Balance:	\$1959.13

**TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS \$2901.14**

KB9ZMF Move to approve - 2nd by W9JUG - Carried

4. Net Controls

12 May: KB9ZMF  
19 May: W9JUG  
26 May: KA9LNJ  
02 Jun: WA9EIC

*(Continued on page 5)*

### VCARA CONNECTION

The Vermilion County Amateur Radio Association (VCARA), a group of Amateur Radio operators, interested and active in the service of the Amateur Radio service, publish a monthly newsletter, where members and officers can post information of interest to other members.

Our policy is to print and/or post only information that is related to Amateur Radio, and not items of a political or religious nature, unless it has an impact on Amateur Radio, such as antenna ordinances, etc.

If a member wishes to have printed a topic that is not Amateur Radio related, they can submit a copy to the club newsletter editor, any club officer, and the matter will be discussed and decided upon by the Board of Directors.

**No PERSONAL attacks** will be allowed.

**Submissions are due on the last Friday of each month!!**



### May Meeting

Monday June 14, 2010 7PM

VCARA Club House  
Woodbury Hill  
Danville, IL



### For Sale!!!!

Radio Shack 2M FM radio (Unknown model)  
Clegg 22ER 2M AM with a clegg mike

Contact Dave Cline for more info at kb9zmf@gmail.com

### Your help is needed!!

The newsletter received a few contributions this month, and we thank you!! The more articles we receive, the better for the newsletter and for you, the reader!!

I would love to see people who can write an article each month..maybe on constructing small indoor antennas for 2 meters, making your own antennas for not only VHF frequencies, but HF frequencies as well. Maybe step by step directions on installing connectors. Believe it or not, there are probably some newbies who might not know.

**Send me articles in Word or text only, or make the pdf files a jpg file.**

I can not convert pdf files back to text. Sorry.

Help out your newsletter!!! Deadline is the last Friday of every month!! 73.

Amateur Radio.....

.....Not just a hobby, but a REAL service.

### From Don WA9EIC

I am compiling a collection of radio manuals and associated information (like power supplies and antennas etc.) If anyone has any requests for additions to my collection, please notify me and I will add it . If You need any rig info I might have it or can get it for You.

Don [wa9eic@gmail.com](mailto:wa9eic@gmail.com)

### Radioactive!! Nets to you.....

Monday ICARC 8:00 147.030 dup+ pl tone 103.5  
Wed. Night Net 7:30 146.820 pl 88.5  
Fridays: 73's Late Night Net 9:00 pm 146.820 pl 88.5

### VCARA QSO Party Every Saturday Morning!! 9:00 am - 11:00 am

VCARA Club House - Woodbury Hill

A weekly get together for fellowship and to work on various club projects. Continued planning for upgrades to the club house facility. All are welcome, your help is appreciated.



**WAS THERE!!!  
Dayton Hamvention  
May 14-16, 2010**



# 2010 Field Day

Friday June 25 Setup  
Starts at 1pm Saturday June 26th  
Ends at 1pm Sunday June 27th.  
24 hours!!

VCARA will be operating at

**Kickapoo State Park**

09 Jun: N9ZIV

5. HAMFEST

- Flyer posted on Yahoo Group
- Soon to be posted on Website
- Please download and pass out
- Some going to Hamvention & other Ham-fests
- Cost is \$300 for fairgrounds
- Prize will be picked up at Hamvention by

Josh Kittle

6. Field Day

- KB9ZMF provided report
- Ironwood Shelter @ Kickapoo
- Setup Friday 26 Jun @ 5:00 PM
- Commercial power for lighting only

- Genset for radios & equipment
- KB9ZMF and N9WEW will each provide 5 gal

lons of gas - MANY THANKS!

- Can be any class to GOTA
- Saturday night dinner
- Club provide meats
- Everyone bring own tableware & beverages

- Everyone bring a dish to pass
- Will be @ 6:00 PM
- W9JUG will bring coffee
- NF9T will contact Mayor for proclamation

from state level as well

7. Space Jam 4

- Need six volunteers to assist with teaching for badges, etc...
- May need to put together presentation
- spacejamboree.com
- Other fun stuff too

8. Club Picture CDs now available

- Many Thanks to Carleen for putting together CD
- Cost is only \$5.00 per CD
- This is fundraiser for club
- Contact John or Carleen for more information

9. Facilities Committee

- There are now three computers networked at the clubhouse with internet capability
- There are shared folders for old equipment manuals.
- If you have electronic versions of equipment manuals please see W9JUG if you wish to donate
- NEED MORE RAM - SDRAM - PC100 or PC133
- K9ANF donated ballasts and lights for club .....MANY THANKS
- Hope to convert upstairs into classroom
- Need help with weed whackers around the building, towers, etc...
- MAY 22, 2010 is CLUB WORKDAY
- Hope to paint roof
- will begin @ 9:00 AM
- W9JUG suggests tech class for Saturday QSO party

10. ARMAD - Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day

- May 29th @ VA Hospital in Social Activities Room
- Would like one more HF & VHF station - need to bring your own antennas
- W9JUG & NU9R will look at possibility of Wire antennas
- NU9R will bring buddiepole HF & UHF/VHF antenna
- Looking for U.S. Military Veterans as operators
- Club members encouraged to be available that afternoon to talk to veterans

11. Adjourn @ 8:00 PM.

A Technician Class Study Group

Saturday May 29 at 10AM

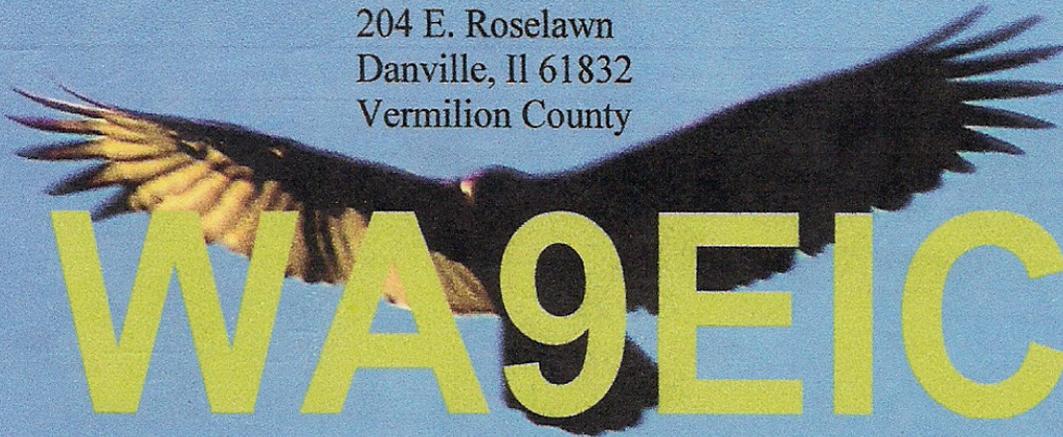
Location VCARA Club House.

Everyone welcome

For more information call 217-516-8650

# QSL Cards From Our Members

Donald R. Russell  
204 E. Roselawn  
Danville, Il 61832  
Vermilion County



# WA9EIC

Confirming QSO with	Date (Z)	UTC	Freq/2XMode	Pwr Out	Report
NF9J	MAY 2010	7:30 PM	146.22/82 NFM	50W	5X9

73,

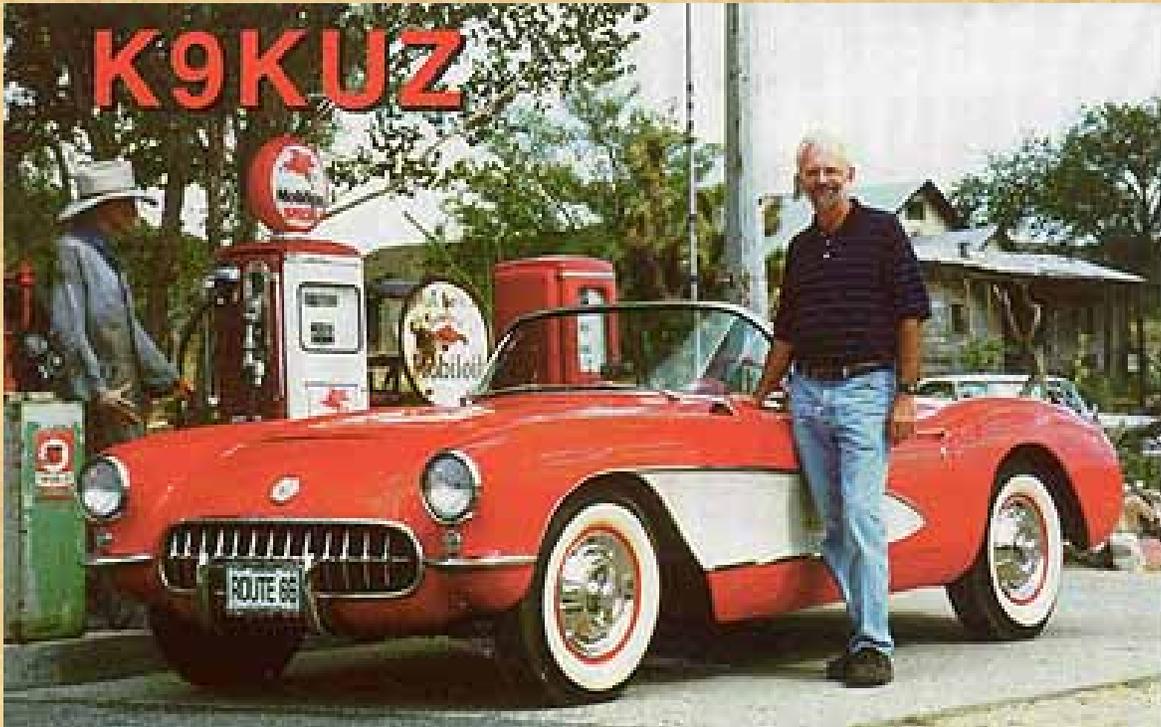
EN60 skcc3416 FISTS6398

Pse QSL Tnx



TO: THIS CONFIRMS OUR 2-WAY QSO.  
DATE: TIME: UTC BAND: UR RST:  
THANKS FOR THE QSO AND 73

# QSL Cards From Our Members





# NF9T

(Formerly KC6ZEC, K6ZEC, NZ6T & W3TM)

**Tuck Miller**

807 Franklin

Danville, IL 61832 U.S.A.

E-Mail: [nf9t@arrl.org](mailto:nf9t@arrl.org)

CQ Zone 4 - Vermilion County - 10x10 68898 - Grid EN60



Confirming QSO With:	DATE	UTC	Mhz	2-WAY	RST	QSL
				SSB CW		PSE TNX

Past Vice Director—Southwestern Division

# The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

**CONSIDERATE**...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL**...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE**...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

**FRIENDLY**...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED**...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

**PATRIOTIC**...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

—The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928