

The Radio Hill Gazette

Volume XXXIX Issue II

February 2014

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From the Editor

Welcome to another edition of the Radio Hill Gazette.

I read newsletters from several Amateur Radio groups, some of which I belong to as a member and others where I'm just another lurker, and they cover a wide variety of interests within the hobby. Some are dedicated and focused on one aspect, such as building, operating, or contesting, while others cover the spectrum over the course of several issues. However, I find that the ones that focus on a narrow subset of the hobby tend to hold my attention better than those trying to be all things to all people.

Mailing lists and email reflectors are another means of communication that can be broadly versed, or kept on relevant topics by the “message wranglers.” In either case, there is a wealth of knowledge and knowledgeable people out there just waiting for the right question to come along.

I was flattered when my question about “When did you feel comfortable with CW?” was circulated beyond my original inquiry. While I received sanitized responses from those who relayed my inquiry, I've been fortunate to see the lists and follow the message threads. I was honored to read how my simple question sparked thoughts in others, thoughts they never considered. It brought back memories, too, for them and others. It never would have happened without a newsletter to spark the initial thought which ultimately grew into its own entity – for a little while, anyway.

Newsletters, like other forms of communication, usually have interest to only a few interested consumers. Do you like *this* newsletter? If you don't, then you don't need to read any further, thanks for stopping by. If you do, then what do you like about it? What else would you like to see? With nearly 100 members (and growing), it's highly unlikely that we all do something unique and different. It's more likely that someone else likes the same aspect that you do, so write something for them or let me know and I'll see if I can get someone to write about a topic that interests you.

Anthony
Editor, RHG

From the President's desk

A new year is beginning, and I'd like to make some improvements to the club this year.

First, I'd like to get a paper roster on the air with info such as:

Name	Year first licensed
Call sign	Ham radio interests
License class	Other interests or hobbies
SARC committee positions	Spouse interests
Spouse (or other) name	Occupation and company, even former occupation and company
Phone number for contact	Special abilities
Home address	
Email address	

I only want it on paper publication, rather than less secure world-wide-web internet publication. Of course, if you want to keep some info private, OK. The idea is that if you need some help with your satellite radio station, you can look up who else in the club has done or is interested in satellite work, and can contact him (her) for information. Other hobbies and interests can also point folks together who have common interests (like photography, rock climbing, fishing, sky diving or biking) and let them get in touch with each other to get involved with other activities as well as radio. Occupation and company can help people meet others in a similar line of work, or from different divisions of a large company. Spice (that's plural) can also learn of others in our club who have similar interests in activities. This can build the club into more of a community.

Years ago, we used to provide copies of the roster with name, call, address and telephone number to all who voted in the election, in paper format. For this new roster, we could use a volunteer who has some ability to compile information. A spreadsheet or word processor could be used to compile it, sort by name or call sign, and then we can head to UPS to print a stack of them for distribution at meetings. If you would like to assist on this (head the roster committee), let one of the officers or board members know, and we can get things started by having members send their info to you. If you send out a form with blanks to fill in, it may be possible to copy from members' replies and paste into the compilation.

Next, we have expanded the Construction Project Meeting tools supply to include a Variac, which can be useful for refurbishing olde radios. If we are going to have an inventory of tools and a library of books, we need to keep track of where these are, so they can continue to be of service to our members. A librarian and/or keeper of the stores would help... Maybe just to make a list of items checked out by date and by whom, or perhaps to take a more active approach.

Let's make SARC a better club in 2014!

Happy New Year! and 73 de N9MVO,
Rob

Soapbox: Operating

Anthony Willard, AB9YC

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party is an excellent event for getting people active in 2014. The early numbers are starting to surface as I write this, but it's already looking like a success. I hope the success can continue throughout all of 2014. I am prepared to operate and have confirmations across 5 bands using any of 4 modes (CW, SSB, PSK31, RTTY). It is shaping up to be a fun year.

There have been some obvious issues with the event, internal and external. I'm only really privy to the external and a very scant smattering of the internal. It seems to me that some states have prepared for their "week in the spotlight" with enthusiasm and it shows in how they are represented on the bands and the professionalism with which they operate. Some have seen first hand how much they underestimated the amount of effort involved – a downside to going first, I guess – treating it like some low participation QSO party where they might get 100 contacts in a few hours. With this event, they'll likely get that in a fraction of an hour – for an entire week.

In fairness to those operating the portable calls, the operators attempting to work them also have to be prepared. I get the sense that many such operators are not DX'ers and are just trying to make contacts for their own reasons, some just fire up the amp and call, call, call. While others, likely DX hunters, politely call, wait for their opportunity and call again.

Working a DX operation can be hit or miss. Are they looking in your direction when they call? Are they looking for only certain zones when they call? Can they even hear you? Are you operating in accordance with their instructions (split, timing, etc)?

A code of conduct has arisen to help govern the etiquette for working a DX operation, known as "DX Code of Conduct" (<http://www.dx-code.org>). Read it, learn it, live it. The CQP is a domestic DX operation for all practical purposes. There is an excellent article covering this on page 91 of the February 2014 issue of QST. There are responsibilities on both ends of the contact and it is in everyone's best interest hold up their end of the obligation.

As the CQP continues, it's becoming more obvious that working split is the preferred method for the W1AW portable operations. So, be prepared to work in split mode. Don't know how? Learn. Need help? Ask. As each station experiences their own pile ups, they may switch things up to help move things along, like working only a certain zone, state, or area. Follow their instructions and you'll get in their logs, which is what you want.

I think that as the event progresses, those states coming up in the next few weeks are scrambling to get their operations ready. They are getting their best operators ready to go, and they will be present on as many bands and modes as they can muster. They will expect to operate like a domestic DX operation.

It is incumbent on those of us trying to make contacts to make certain we are ready to do our part.

This event is an excellent opportunity for those who do not operate very often to get on the air and see what your station can do. You can be as casual or “intense” as you want, but do it politely, follow good behavior and you will have an enjoyable time. Ever want to get a Worked All States award? This is a great opportunity, and you have a whole year to get it done. Get out there and operate.

The primary means for acknowledging contacts is using the Logbook of the World, so that will be your best bet for getting your contacts confirmed and getting credit towards any awards you might be seeking. Early results are showing contacts being confirmed the week following, but I've had some confirmed mid-week already. If you are not using LOTW, now is the time to give it a look, and don't listen to the naysayers and detractors. It's not that difficult to get setup and use.

See you on the air.

Anthony

Satellite Adventure, Part 1

Leo Ribordy, N9NBH

Tracking and Shooting Ham Satellites

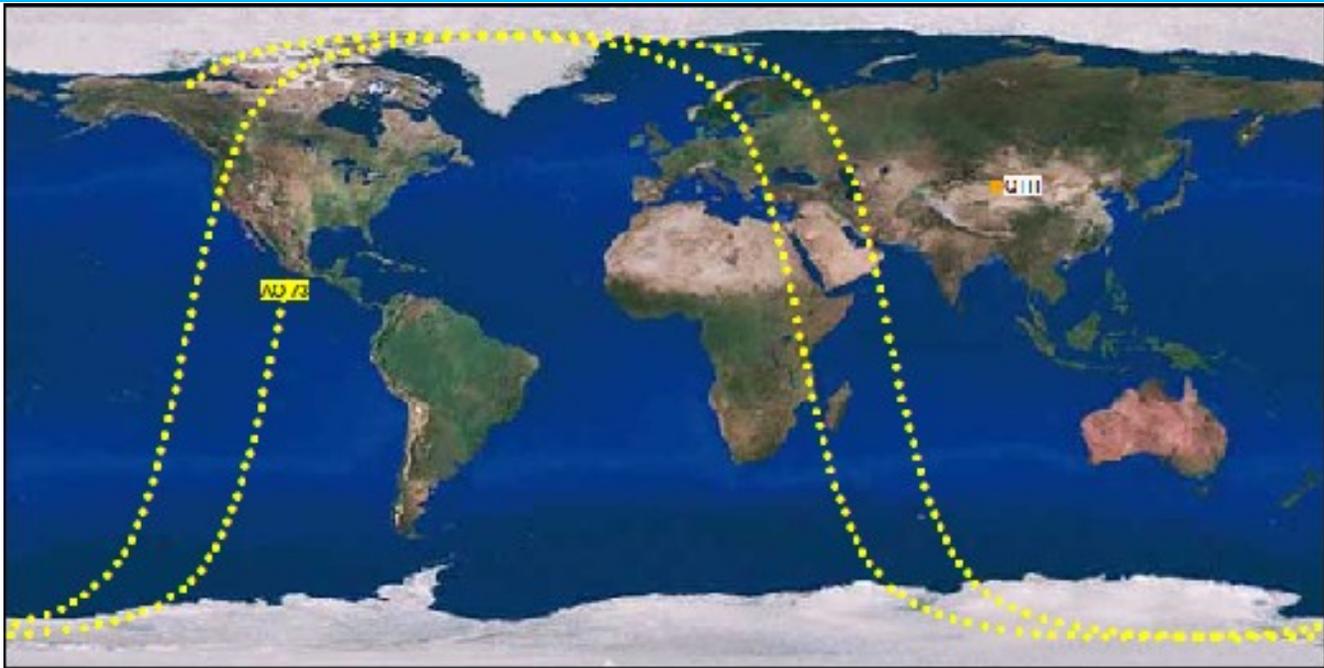
This is Leo, N9NBH, and I have always been interested in making a contact using an Amateur Radio Satellite. I have tried a couple of times by myself and also as a group at Field Day with no success. I would like to be able to help the club get the extra points on Field Day for a Satellite contact. My goal is to document my research on what type of equipment to use, software programs, antennas, and of course what satellite or satellites to work. Before you can communicate through a satellite you must know what satellites are available and at what time of day. Also the rule of thumb is: if you can't hear it you can't work it. If you go to ww2.amsat.org web site it lists all the satellites with the uplink and down link frequencies. As of this time there are 78 active ham satellites. Active meaning all or a portion of the satellite is still working.

I constructed a Lindenblad antenna for use on 2 meters. This is an omnidirectional antenna eliminating the need for an azimuth/elevation rotator system. This antenna is mounted on a 3 foot mast on top of a two story house.

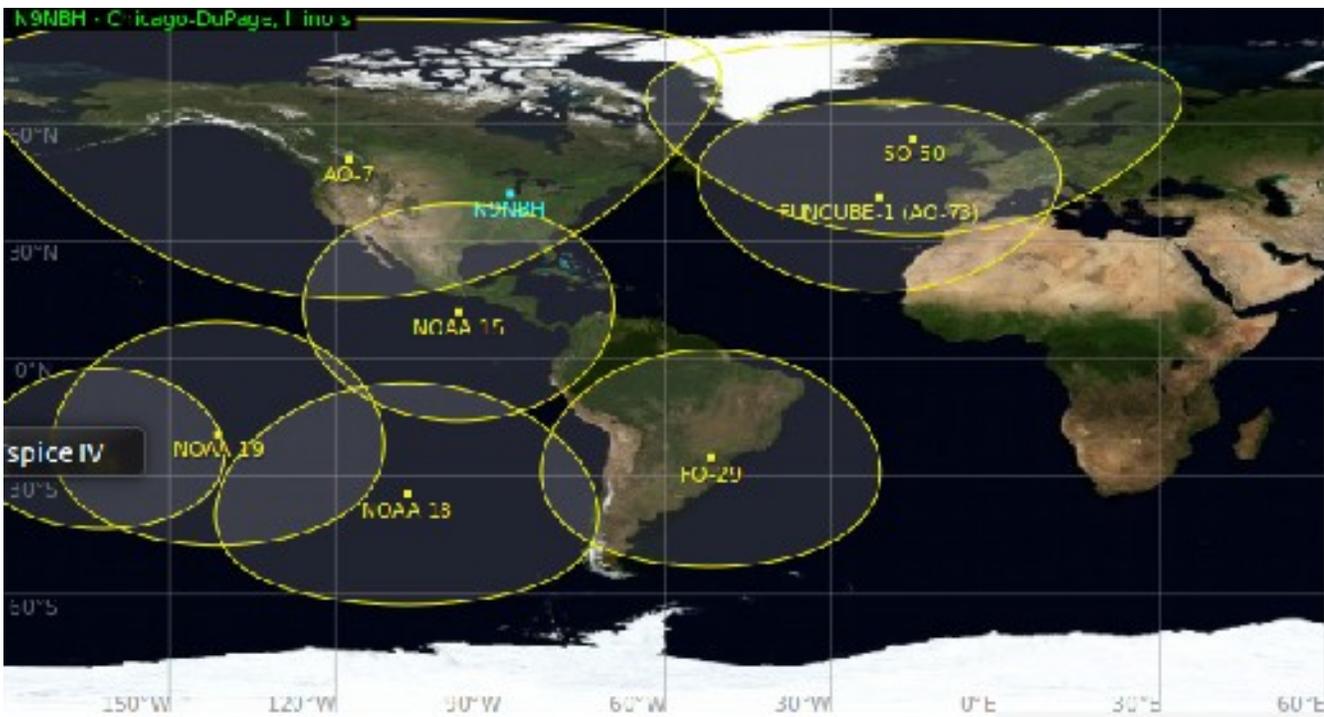
Three feet above the Lindenblad antenna is a vertical 440 dipole antenna.

I attached two snapshots of satellite tracking programs. Both of these programs are free. The first snapshot of an orbiting satellite, AO73, is from the [amsat](http://amsat.org) web site. You select the satellite you want to track along with your QTH grid coordinates and run the program. The second program is also freeware. It is called `gpredict`, and it can track multiple satellites.





This snapshot is from amsat web site. It can only track one satellite at a time



This snapshot is from gpredict program. The satellites I am tracking are AO7, SO50, AO73, FO29, and NOAA15, 18, 19. In this picture you can see that AO7 is in range of my QTH and I should be able to hear it. Next months article will be on the problems and I hope the successes on hearing the Satellite.

73 N9NBH

SARC Fox Hunt

Saturday, March 1, 2014

1. The 2014 inaugural Fox Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 1st after Breakfast at Maxfield's Restaurant, weather permitting...
 - o The starting point is in the parking lot adjacent to Maxim's Restaurant.
 - o The fox hunt will start approximately at 9:30 am.
 - o Steve, AC9EM, will announce the start of the Hunt.
2. The geographical boundaries for this hunt are: I-90 on the North, and Route 53 on the east, Schaumburg Road on the South and Barrington Road on the West. Note: boundaries are within the limits of Schaumburg Township borders.
3. There is a two-hour time limit for this fox hunt.
4. A prize will be awarded to the winner. Decision of Fox Hunt Chairman is final.

The Fox

- A. The Fox will transmit on 144.630 MHz, with a CTCSS (pl) of 107.2 Hz.
- B. The Fox will clearly identify his call sign, and will transmit intelligible narrow band FM signal with no more than 5 KHz deviation.
- C. Must be heard by more than 50% of the hunters at the starting point.
- D. Must identify and transmit for a minimum of 30 seconds and start a transmission at least every 5 minutes. The fox may use a more frequent transmission schedule, which must be announced before the start of the foxhunt.
- E. May not change antenna, power or antenna position once the hunt has started.
- F. Must hide so the hunters can drive on a paved roadway, park their cars, and walk no more than 1000 feet to the fox. Hiding areas must be accessible to the general public.
- G. Will not hide where admission is charged (i.e. drive-ins, pay sporting events, toll roads, etc.).
- H. The fox and crew will not operate any other 2-meter transmitters during the transmissions, which could cause interference with the hunt or hunter's gear.
- I. Must provide a means to note the time and call of finishers.

The Hunter

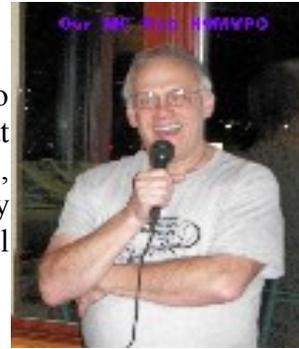
- I. Hunters may be individuals or groups, but only one name and call sign per group will be allowed.
- II. Must check-in with Steve Karson, AC9EM, the fox hunt chairman at the starting point, and identify the name and call sign of their group.
- III. May not leave the starting point until released by the fox hunt chairman or designated substitute.
- IV. Must not transmit when the fox is on the air or operate any other transmitters during the transmissions, which could cause interference with the hunt or other hunters' gear.

These rules are subject to review and change.

SARC Christmas Party

Anthony Willard, AB9YC

This year's annual Christmas Party was once again held at the Bueno Beef on Route 72 in Hoffman Estates. The event was attended by at least 40 HAM's, spouses and guests. A fun time of socialization, meets, greets and general conversation was had by all. When most everybody had eaten something from the menu, it was on to the more formal activities.



The annual Sowka Award was presented.

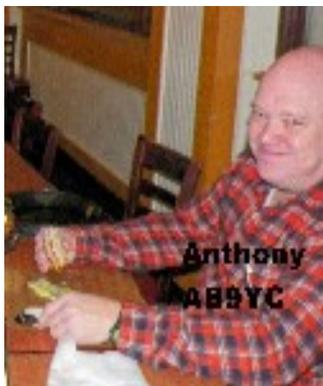
In Recognition of his ability to talk with knowledge and confidence about ham radio, especially regarding antennas, transmission lines, standing wave ratios, and grounding, without necessarily needing anyone listening, hearing, or understanding, the decision of the appropriate awards committee is that the Sowka Award for 2013 should be presented to:



Mel Luxenberg, W9FRT

for his success in talking with knowledge and confidence about ham radio, especially regarding antennas, transmission lines, standing wave ratios, and grounding, without necessarily needing anyone listening, hearing, or understanding.

The 2013 Member of the Year was awarded to Anthony AB9YC (repeat AB9YC, AB9YC) – sorry, you had to be there. “I am honored to have received this award. It is unexpected, so thanks to all who voted for me. Thanks!” AB9YC



The winner of the RHG Contributor drawing is Anthony AB9YC. This drawing rewards the winner a paid annual membership to the Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club for the upcoming year. The pool of names is drawn from those who contribute articles for publication in the Radio Hill Gazette (RHG).

A good time was had by all who braved the snowy, icy and very cold conditions to join in fellowship with fellow Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club members. See you next year!

Calendar and things to do

February

ARRL Centennial QSO Party	1/1 – 365 days, all 50 states, all bands, many modes
Breakfast at Maxfields	1
Board of directors meeting	5
Construction project	8
EmComm Roundtable	15
Club meeting	20
Construction project	22
NA QSO Party, RTTY	22

There are plenty of contests this month operating in many modes on various bands, so find one and listen in. Check out <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php> to see what's coming up.

VE Testing Results



Next Test: February 2, 2014
 Results for January 4, 2014
 Park District CRC; Sr. Center;
 Sunshine Room.

CLASS	NUMBER TESTED	NEW LICENSE or UPGRADE
Technician	6	6
General	5	6
Extra	0	0
Total	11	11

New Licenses:

****Technician****

Tim R Wilkin KD9AFR
 Jason E Burzynski KD9AFS
 John P Malecki KD9AFV
 Joshua D Sargent KD9AFW
 Mark R Weiss KD9AFX
 Lawrence G Oatman KD9AFY

****General****

Ryan R Rasche KD9AGA
 Wilson Meador KD9AFT
 Michael A Beach KD9AFU

Daniel G Van Der Woude KC9ZCC
 Joel M Van Der Woude KC9ZCB

****Amateur Extra****

None

Upgrades:

None

The SARC-sponsored VE exam sessions are held at 9:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month (unless it is a holiday or advised to the contrary by Schaumburg Park District) at

Schaumburg Community Rec Center (CRC)
505 N. Springinsguth Road
Schaumburg, IL 60168-0251

The CRC is located at the S.E. corner of Springsinsguth and Bode Road, park in the North lot and enter through the North doors. Testing will be in the Sr. Sunshine Room. Signs will be posted to guide the way to the room.

The fee for taking a VE exam is \$14.00.

According to the FCC, the test fee allows an examinee one attempt to pass or fail each of the three examination elements. In addition, the order in which the examination elements are taken is not restricted; they may be taken out of sequence.

As in the past, an identical fee will be assessed to any applicant who fails an exam and wants to retest at the same session. The only condition is that the same exam (identical set of questions) cannot be given to the

Applicant, since all our exams are unique, this is not a problem at our sessions.

Tom Doyle K9MF

W5YI-VEC CVE & Test Session Manager
 847-895-0174
 Email: K9MF@ARRL.NET

SARC Email Reflector

Want to know what's happening in the club? Join the club's email reflector on Google groups.

Point your web browser to:

<http://groups.google.com/group/sarc-all>

Click on the Join this group link. You can use your current email account to sign up or create a free Gmail account.

You can elect to receive individual messages, a daily digest, or just read the messages on the Google Groups webpage.

Club Nets

Technical information net - Every Tuesday night at 7:30 pm. on the SARC Repeater 145.23 MHz.-600 kHz WITH 107.2 Hz PL. Bring your Q&A's

Thursday nights are the 2 meter general information net on the SARC Repeater 145.23 MHz.-600 kHz with 107.2 Hz PL. at 8:00 PM (except meeting nights.)

Club Meetings

Club meetings are held at the Schaumburg Recreation Center (CRC) on the southeast corner of Springinsguth and Bode roads. Our nets are held every Thursday (except Meeting nights) at 8pm on the K9IHK repeater; 145.23 MHz -600 kHz with 107.2 Hz PL.

Club Officers - 2014

President:	Rob Glowacki	N9MVO	
	n9mvo <at> sbcglobal.net		847-981-1481
Vice Pres.	Leo Ribordy	N9NBH	
	leoribordy <at> sbcglobal.net		847-697-7616
Secretary:	Ray Parsons	W9RAP	
Treasurer:	Albert Valdes	K6K0K	
Director:	Steve Karson	AC9EM	(2016)
Director:	Anthony Willard	AB9YC	(2016)
Director:	Cliff Sowka	K9QD	(2014)
Director:	Ray Parsons	W9RAP	(2014)
Director:	Gary Bernstein	N9VU	(2015)

Club Committees

Programs	Open
Social Activities	Roger Ryan, W9RDR
Membership	Leo Ribordy, N9NBH
Education	Open
Public Service	Rob Glowacki, N9MVO
Emergency Communications	Bob Langsfeld, WB9TZC
Special Events / Field Day	Dennis White, KC9NZP
RHG	Anthony Willard, AB9YC
Publicity	Open
Net	Jim Brink, W9JFB
Technical Assistance	Ted Lester AB9SZ
Fund Raising	- Open -
Fox Hunt Coordinator	Steve Karson, AC9EM
Repeater	Rob Glowacki, N9MVO



Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club

Thursday Night 8:00 Net
S.A.R.C. Repeater
145.230 MHz- 600 kHz PL=107.2
442.275 MHz +5 MHz PL=114.8 Hz

Don't forget to check into the net! It will only take a minute and will let other club members know how you sound on the club repeater. The net features current club news, weekly NEWSLINE, news from other clubs and (of course) the swap-and-shop. Encourage your friends who are not yet members to check in with as well. Keep in mind that this is an open net and we encourage everyone to check in. See you Thursday at 8p.m.

The Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is organized as a general not-for-profit corporation in the State of Illinois to render

public service whenever applicable to the needs of the community and further various pursuits of amateur radio as a hobby. Meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of each month. Visitors are always welcome.

Please send all submissions for the Radio Hill Gazette to the following address:

Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
790 Washington Blvd.
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169-3077

Or you can send by mail to rhg@n9rjv.org.

We solicit letters, articles, news items, quizzes, advertisements, suggestions, and criticism -- plus anything else you can think of, including ideas to improve the RHG!

The editor reserves the right to edit submissions due to size or formatting limitations. S.A.R.C. shares newsletters with a number of other clubs. We scrutinize their publications very closely to make

sure that we do not infringe on any copyrights. As a matter of form, we try to acknowledge all prior sources.

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Visit the SARC Home Page at <http://n9rjv.org>

