

The Radio Hill Gazette

Volume XXXIX Issue III

March 2014

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From the Editor

Welcome to another edition of the Radio Hill Gazette.

It's already March. While we are still staring at snow covered ground, it's important to note that spring is on the way. I know this because my Australian Sheppard is starting to shed. This is the time to begin the final planning for activities you want to do once the weather allows it.

The first SARC in the Park activities are approaching quickly, and now is the time to plan your schedule to visit one or more of these. Field Day is only 3 months away, are you ready?

Anyone who operates regularly knows what steps are necessary before the winter weather sets in. By the same measure, we also know what maintenance will be required once the snow and ice disappear. Harsh winter weather takes a toll on our outside equipment. I know I have a few such projects, like my new dipole feed line, which didn't arrive until the weather made installation a no-go, I really only missed it by one weekend.

Please be safe when performing your semiannual maintenance activities, and get on the air as often as you are able.

Anthony
Editor, RHG

Goals make life interesting

Anthony Willard, AB9YC

Goals give some meaning to how you go about your day to day activities. Some goals require daily action in order to achieve; others only require action a few times a week or month.

In the few years since I became a licensed amateur operator (10/2010), I've set goals for each year.

Early on (2011), it was just getting on the air and making contacts.

In 2012, I undertook learning CW and working Field Day. While "learning" CW is still an ongoing effort with increased levels of proficiency, I achieved my goal and more culminating in my Worked All States (WAS) CW in early 2013.

My goal for 2013 was WAS in all three modes. I already had CW in the bag, so that was taken care of. I pushed and made it official in SSB and digital modes, closing out my basic WAS efforts. My next threshold in this area is the five band WAS, 5BWAS. That's a whole lot more challenging since I can't take whatever contact I can find, I have to work to find one on a band where I need it. Funny thing is it's not the states you expect that are the toughest.

For 2014, I've set it my goal to put a DXCC on the wall. That's 100 countries contacted and confirmed. There are currently 340 recognized entities, or countries. No, I'm not trying to do it entirely in 2014, I'm just making an effort to reach the goal in the current year. I'm pretty close. But, when I start looking at which countries I have contacted, their locations, and the amount of activity, I am going to have to extend my operations to close out 100, roughly one third of the countries in the world. Case in point, the recent ARRL DX CW contest. This is a contest where US stations can only work other countries (no, Canada doesn't count!) for points. While I managed several hundred contacts, they were clustered in the more active countries. I managed 67 countries total in just a weekend, with 9 being first contacts. Hopefully, I'll get most of the new ones to confirm and get me closer to my goal.

Okay, enough about my goals. What amateur radio goals have you set for yourself for this year? Are you embracing a new mode? Stepping up your operating time? Expanding your radio collection? Growing your antenna farm? Counting states? Counting countries? Maybe a license upgrade?

Anthony
AB9YC

Park-spedition - Part I

Anthony Willard, AB9YC

There are many operating opportunities in the world of amateur radio, ranging from communication nets, weekly nets, special operating events, DX expeditions, contests and a simple 'get on the air' moment - all from the comfort of you shack. It can be fun contacting one of these stations

participating in such an activity. Many are well organized and have a history or story to go along with it, like some monument (battleship, state fair, etc). Some are trips to mountain tops (Summits on the Air or SOTA), where an operator will trek to a lonely peak and spend a few hours making contacts. Others are one operator, sometimes more, setting up in a local park or open area and operating for the joy of operating. That, and it can be fun just getting out of the shack to operate, too.

I have decided to make at least one operating expedition in the upcoming year. I might just head out and see what I can find, or I might try to plan my outing to participate in a larger event, like a SOTA activity. Either way, I want to get out and operate in the open air.

First, I need to decide on how much I want to take. Sure, things like a radio, antenna, battery, and a log book sound good, but those are the absolute bare minimum. What about creature comforts, like a chair, or maybe a blanket? How about refreshments, I might be there for more than just a few minutes, after all. What about an operating table?

These are some very good questions that have to be answered. If I choose a park for my operation, will there be a table I can use and not have to bring my own? Will it be near enough to any trees I might need for my antenna of choice, the venerable wire dipole? Will I be able to operate without interfering with or being interfered with by, other people, park goers or pets? If I select some arbitrary spot in a field or along a trail or path, what is my operating environment going to be like?

How far from my conveyance (vehicle, bike, etc) will I be required to carry my gear? Can I move it all in one trip, or will I have to make multiple trips? Should I have a cart or wagon? Can I condense the whole equipment list down to a backpack or duffle?

Again, interesting questions, and they all must be answered before I can mount a successful field operation. The easy answer is to choose a park with a pavilion and tables, load all sorts of gear into the Jeep and be off. But that is probably overkill and will likely turn into a logistical headache, taking the fun out of the overall event.

Can I get somewhere on my bike, say, someplace where I won't have to compete for a table or parking space? How will I carry a table on my bike?!

So, there it is. I need to find a location, see what resources (tables, trees, parking, etc.) are available, then plan on what gear I'll need. It's still winter, and the ground is snow covered, but it won't stop me from doing some preliminary scouting and gathering up whatever resources I'll need to take along.

Stay tuned as I make progress, see you next time.

Anthony
AB9YC

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.

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
Fox Hunt	1
ARRL DX SSB	1-2
Board of directors meeting	5
Construction project	8
EmComm Roundtable	15
Club meeting	20
Construction project	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 1, 2014
 Results for March 1, 2014
 Park District CRC; Sr. Center;
 Sunshine Room.

CLASS	NUMBER TESTED	NEW LICENSE or UPGRADE
Technician	2	2
General	3	3
Extra	0	0
Total	5	5

New Licenses:

****Technician****

Tim Effrig KD9AJH
 Christopher M Jones KD9AJI

****General****

William Ulivieri KC9CVW
 Tim Wilkin KD9AFR
 Ian Kuhn KD9AHP

****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

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

