

# The Radio Hill Gazette

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April 2014

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## From the Editor

Welcome to another edition of the Radio Hill Gazette.

Spring has arrived, although you can't really tell by looking at the thermometer. Before too long you'll be able to actually see the ground and it won't be frozen and brown.

The good thing is that as the daylight increases, the temperature improves, we can get out and do those outside things we all love to do, some radio related and some not. Is mowing the grass around my ground mounted vertical a radio task or not?

What radio related activities are you undertaking as the weather improves? Take a few minutes to write a short bit about what you are doing, why you are doing it, and how it turns out and submit it to the RHG. We all do what we want, but sometimes, others find it interesting. Even if they would never attempt or need it. Plus, it lets other readers know that they might have options they never considered, and that someone they know is available for ideas.

Anthony  
Editor, RHG

## Things are looking up

Anthony Willard, AB9YC

Up, as in vertically. I've made mention of my HF antennas in the past. So, for those who don't know, I use a fan dipole (40/20/10), and a 40M vertical. Both are wire antennas without tubes, traps, or other loadings. The dipole is my primary antenna, but I added the vertical in attempt to improve my long range capability.

The last I noted, following the installation of my vertical, I had yet to prove it on the air with any definitive results. Well, that has changed.

For domestic contacts, the vertical can make a difference due to its polarity. But, for the most part it only has a better signal to noise ratio, not necessarily a better energy output or directivity. So, for domestic it's more of a fallback option.

With its shallower take off angle, it should be better for DX, or long range, contacts. But the question is how far is "far?" My efforts have proved it out, even if I don't really know when it should work versus when it shouldn't. A good example of this is the Caribbean countries. They are far enough away that a lower signal would get through, so the vertical should excel. Well, it does, sometimes. When I think it should work it doesn't, and when I don't think it will matter, I make contact. Go figure. Neither antenna seems to work "well" for Cuba or Mexico.

Now, for contacts 'over the ocean', it really comes into its own. During the recent ARRL DX CW contest, the vertical antenna was my primary antenna. I would only switch to the dipole when the vertical wouldn't get through. Sometimes the dipole helped, and other times it didn't really matter, and I wasn't going to be heard. But, on the whole, the vertical carried the load.

When I happened into a bunch of German stations during the contest, I purposefully tried using the dipole, and only managed a few contacts. I went back to the vertical, and the contacts were quick and easy, no repeats.

Now, anecdotally, I've made it all the way to Guam (far side of the Pacific Ocean) with my dipole, but I've done it since with the vertical and it seemed easier. In reality, when propagation is favorable, I could probably yell out my door and make a contact, but that is rarely the case so I'll let my antennas do the work.

The vertical was my primary antenna for the 3 contacts to the DXpedition on Amsterdam Island, FT5ZM. Operating skill on my part helped I'm sure, and I think I may have had a bit of help too, but that's another story.

So, where do I stand? Well, for domestic contacts the dipole will be the workhorse, which is supported by some cursory RBN work. My tuner can match it across the HF spectrum with no difficulty. But, it's only about 25' high, which limits its range on the lower bands. The vertical, however, is limited to 40M and above, but can be the workhorse for the long haul contacts. Between

the two antennas, I should have plenty of options to close out a contact. I'll ponder some 80M modifications for the vertical and see about extending my capabilities there.

Is there anything here you can use, any takeaways? Well, yes. The venerable dipole is simple to understand, easy to install and use and can get you plenty of contacts; the vertical is a bit more complex because of the support needed and the radial system (footprint) required for effective radiation. If you are interested in domestic contacts, the dipole should be your first choice; if you are interested in DX activity, then a vertical can improve your reach. If you have the space and can manage it, I'd say do both. Options always improve your chances of making a contact – any contact – and two (quasi-omnidirectional) antennas with different polarity can make a huge difference.

I'll see you on the air, until next time, 73.

Anthony  
AB9YC

## **SARC Fox Hunt Results for Saturday, March 1, 2014**

By: Steve Karson, AC9EM, Fox Hunt Chairman

### **The wily Fox**

WB9TZC, Bob Langsfeld

### **The Hunters**

W9KAO, Kent & Derek Ochs "The Winning Team"

AC9CG, Mike Clodfelter

AC9EM, Steve Karson

K9AJK, Arnie Kazmer

KC9ZUN, Paul Wanthal

W9JFB, Jim Brink

### **Lesson learned**

Use a good directional antenna and attenuator!!! *[These are good projects for the Construction Meetings and the soon-to-commence SARC in the Park. Ideas welcome. Ed.]*

### Hallicrafters radio speaker for sale

SARC has a genuine Hallicrafters radio speaker available for sale. (Further information is unavailable now, but the speaker will likely work with a Hallicrafters radio.)

Submit any bids to the SARC-ALL mailing list.

The close of bidding 6:00 PM on April 17, 2014, the monthly club meeting night.

73 de N9MVO,

Rob



## Bits and Pieces from the March 8, 2014 construction meetings

Dave K9KBM

We had a good turnout with a lot of radioactivity and a large box of donuts which made for a “Fat Tuesday” on a good Saturday.

Gary (N9VU) was assisted by Kent (W9KAO) Cliff (W9QD) Leo (N9NBH) and Ray (W9RAP) and revived his 10 M rig. Next time we will make sure you get enough help. I missed that picture, will do better next time.



*Illustration 1: Den 1 (KC9NZZ) Dave 1 (K9KBM) and Tony (WA9PEB) Investigated the possibility of using a computer power supply to power a rig. For a load we used three partial spools of #12 wire (about 1?) and were able to pull a little over 14 A, increasing the load resulted in fold back. The next problem will be to find a way to increase the output to 13.5V to get the max output on transmit.*



*Illustration 2: Arney (K9AJK) and Mel (W9FRT) reviewed theory and formulas in prep for the general exam. As it turns out he knew more than he thought he did.*



*Illustration 3: Kent (W9KAO) was designing and building, at the same time, an audio balance box for the repeater. We have the talent.*

## Calendar and things to do

### April

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| ARRL Centennial QSO Party  | 1/1 – 365 days, all 50 states, all bands, many modes |
| Board of directors meeting | 2  |
| Breakfast at Maxfields     | 5  |
| Construction project       | 12   |
| EmComm Roundtable          | 19   |
| Club meeting               | 17   |
| Construction project       | 26   |

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 | 3             | 2                      |
| General    | 2             | 2                      |
| Extra      | 1             | 1                      |
| Total      | 6             | 5                      |

### New Licenses:

#### \*\*\*\*Technician\*\*\*\*

Chris Kuehlem            KD9APO  
 John Sandow            KD9APP

#### \*\*\*\*General\*\*\*\*

Michael Darden        KC9YMJ  
 Loren Becht            KC9TUV

#### \*\*\*\*Amateur Extra\*\*\*\*

James Erlain            KC9MSH

### 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](mailto: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

|                   |   |       |              |
|-------------------|---|-------|--------------|
| <b>President:</b> | Rob Glowacki  | N9MVO |              |
|                   | <a href="mailto:n9mvo@sbcglobal.net">n9mvo &lt;at&gt; sbcglobal.net</a>           |       | 847-981-1481 |
| <b>Vice Pres.</b> | Leo Ribordy   | N9NBH |              |
|                   | <a href="mailto:leoribordy@sbcglobal.net">leoribordy &lt;at&gt; sbcglobal.net</a> |       | 847-697-7616 |
| <b>Secretary:</b> | Ray Parsons   | W9RAP |              |
| <b>Treasurer:</b> | Albert Valdes   | K6K0K |              |
| <b>Director:</b>  | Steve Karson  | AC9EM | (2016)       |
| <b>Director:</b>  | Anthony Willard   | AB9YC | (2016)       |
| <b>Director:</b>  | Cliff Sowka   | K9QD  | (2014)       |
| <b>Director:</b>  | Ray Parsons   | W9RAP | (2014)       |
| <b>Director:</b>  | 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](mailto: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>

