

The Radio Hill Gazette

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From the Editor

Welcome to another edition of the Radio Hill Gazette.

The vast wealth of knowledge contained within the membership of the Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club (SARC) never ceases to amaze me. And, we are always getting more people to join our ranks, and they bring diverse backgrounds, experiences, skills and the desire to learn more.

A topic that has taken on new life is that of hidden transmitter hunting, or Fox Hunting. Now that the weather is warmer, there will be more events. There is even talk of using the SARC in the Park activities to showcase some of the technologies and techniques in hopes of drawing other participants. If you have an interest in learning more about this exciting area of Amateur Radio, join in on the reflector discussions and show up to some of the many gatherings where Fox Hunting will be a primary focus. It doesn't take much in the way of equipment, just an HT with some form of strength meter or S meter and a directional antenna, like the tape measure yagi. So, throw together some stuff and get involved.

Field Day is approaching fast, we only have a few months before the event. Our club activities always need people to operate in the various stations. Please sign up and get involved in this once-a-year activity.

Anthony
Editor, RHG

From the desk of the President

Here is a high light of the SARC club meeting held on April 17, 2014. Meeting was called to order, with 20 hams attending the meeting. A new ham attended our meeting to check us out and also see if anybody in the club did ballooning/APRS.

Also discussed was the fox hunt that was held after the club breakfast. Two teams were involved in the hunt, Team 1 (AC9EM & W9JFB), found the fox just before the end of the time limit. Team 2, (N9NBH & N9MVO) were lost in the canyon's of some office buildings. We discussed the types of antenna's being used and how to improve the antenna's using the antenna modeling program 4NEC2.

We have one construction project left for the season, that will be held on April 26 at the Schaumburg Tennis Club.

Our first community service project will be held on April 4, 2014. This is the MS walk and we still could use some volunteers. Also was discussed a save the date, June 28 and 29 for field day. Also requested was for the President to send out a reminder on the Google Group to all hams to remind them of the club meeting. The meeting was concluded with a presentation by WA9PED on how they set up the EmComm repeater and HT's for the village of Palatine.

Leo N9NBH

Vice President

What can you make with an Arduino that makes beeping sounds and can be hidden in a public place?



After starting several Arduino projects and not finishing because they turned out to be excessively complex or impractical, I finally found an Arduino application that is useful and real simple. The project is a code generator that turns my 2M HT into a beacon to test RDF antennas.

In a short period of time I've built and accumulated a variety of 2M antennas that are advertised as suitable for fox hunting. The problem is that one needs a way to test them prior to going out on a hunt so that you can compare technology and determine how to use each different configuration. To test one needs a reliable 2M beacon, so the answer is to build my own 2M beacon that can be used to test antennas. The Arduino has a tone command that drives a speaker. My code turns the tone on for one unit of time for a dot and three units for a dash, more code sends the correct dots and dashes for each letter and pastes the letters together to send W9JFB/B in CW. The entire program is about 30 lines of code. I built a box that holds the radio, speaker Arduino and battery case. To run the beacon I turn the VOX on in the HT, set the speaker in front of the radio and run the code.

Parts needed, 1 Arduino, 1 speaker, 2 100 ohm resistors a couple of switches and a battery pack that gives you more than 5 volts. And of course a HT with VOX. If anyone is interested I'd be glad to share the code and minor wiring, just send me an email or we can talk at the next build.

For some reason my wife doesn't share my enthusiasm for this project. I explained to her that if she carried this device in the mall I'd be able to find her at any time. Her reply contained information that only seemed useful to test the ruggedness of the system so I won't repeat it at this time.

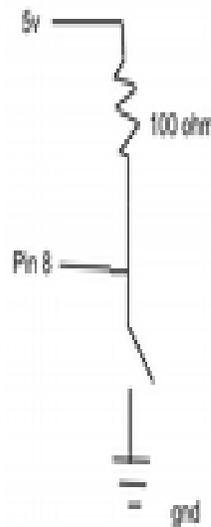
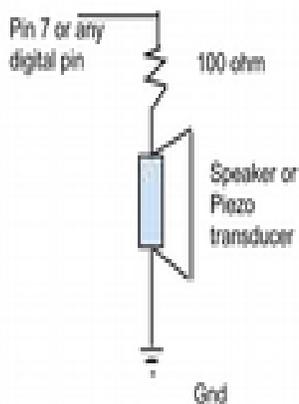
Remember "If you build it we will find you"

73, W9JFB Jim

Note on wiring the Arduino. Only one piece of circuitry is needed beyond the Arduino, that is the resistor to drive the speaker off a digital pin. The instruction for the speaker is 'tone(speakerPin, frequency, duration)', I used digital pin 7 but any digital pin can be chosen. I also used second piece of circuitry which is a switch to select between a couple of modes, one sends the call for a minute and pauses for a minute and the other sends the call for a minute and pauses for four minutes. You could skip the switch and just code one mode or the other. I also worked on some circuitry to control PTT from a relay driven off another digital pin but connecting the ht proved to be a pain so I am using VOX on the radio.

Circuit for the speaker;

Circuit for mode select switch;



A practical use for a transmitter hunting antenna

Anthony Willard

AB9YC

I decided to join in on the transmitter hunting activities, but I needed an antenna (or two!). I decided on the venerable tape measure beam. I had a surplus tape measure, some lengths PVC, and some other miscellaneous bits and bobs necessary for construction.

Construction was pretty straight forward and produced no really challenges, except avoiding the sharp edges of the tape measure.

The antenna was all constructed and ready to go. I plugged it to my HT and stepped outside to track down the K9IHK repeater. Wow. From my first readings, it was everywhere! It didn't matter where I pointed my antenna, the S meter was pegged. Curious.

I went indoors and sat there waiting for someone to actually strike up a conversation and I would see about getting a bearing to their signal, instead of the Mighty K9IHK Repeater. But, when inside my family room, my S meter was pegged, but no sound from the speaker, even with the “duckie” antenna. Step outside, it was still there; I walked across the yard and it went away. Hmmmm, something indoors was generating S9 noise on 2M.

I reconnected the tape measure beam and began hunting around for my noise source. After several direction determinations, I traced it to my Nintendo Wii. Somehow, it was in a weird mode where the power supply was generating plentiful noise on 2M. A quick reset of the device and the noise is gone.

So, transmitter hunting does have other practical uses!

Anthony

AB9YC

Bits and Pieces, 03-22-2014



Illustration 1: WB9PTA was showing members the kits he was assembling to build attenuator devices for Fox Hunts.



Illustration 2: Don K9UD is in the process of restoring his classic D-104



Illustration 3: Jim W9JFB looks over a classic General Radio output meter in hopes of using it.



Illustration 4: Bob K9UKY, who is not yet a member, donated a IC721 which needs a little work but will make for a good starter rig for a new ham (as soon as we fix the intermittent)

Bits and Pieces, 04-12-2014



Illustration 5: Thanks to Cliff K9QD we now have five good looking cabinets to store our equipment and parts at the Tennis Club. As a bonus, and Cliff's silver tong, they came in under budget and delivered.



Illustration 6: THANKS Cliff

Meet the SARC Longest Distance Member



N4NPQ, John Fletcher, is the club's long distance member residing in Ladson, South Carolina. John's original call was K9WOE which was issued in 1962 when he lived in the south side of Chicago. He recently submitted an application to have his call sign changed back to K9WOE.

John's early career was as a Gun Fire Control Technician (FTG). He served two sea tours going to Viet Nam on both. He spent 3 years at Marquette University and graduated with a BSEE. John attained the rate of FTGC (E7) while at Marquette. As an officer, John was a Non-Nuclear Trained Submarine Officer specializing in Strategic Weapons Systems. He served on the USS Daniel Webster SSBN 626 as an Assistant Weapons Officer and the USS Stonewall Jackson SSBN 634 As Navigation/Operations Officer. John retired with the rank of Lieutenant (O3) in 1986.

After retiring from the Navy, John started his second career as an Electrical Engineer at a Roofing Manufacturer. There he was responsible for keeping the 32 year old Roofing Machine and Granule Plant running. In addition, he was tasked with installing and improving automation in these two plants and two other plants. In 2002, three of the four plants were shut down and John was moved to the Glass Plant where fiberglass mat is manufactured. This mat is used mainly as the substrate for fiberglass roofing. John retired from this job in 2008 after 21+ years of service.

Most mornings he can be found on the two meter repeater between 7:00 and 8:00 AM on the commuter net via the internet connection using either Allstarlink or Echolink.

SARC Fox Hunt Results for Saturday, April 5, 2014

Steve Karson
AC9EM
Fox Hunt Chairman

The clever Fox

(reflected signal off the north side of the Schaumburg tennis Plus Park District Facility)
W9KAO, Kent Ochs

The Hunters

W9JFB, Jim Brink, AC9EM, Steve Karson: the “Winning Team” with only 90 seconds to go...

N9MVO, Rob Glowacki, N9NBH, Leo Ribordy,

Lesson learned

With a few more hunter/teams, and a little more practice, we will get it right!

Note:

Weather permitting, the next scheduled hunt will be after the monthly club breakfast on Saturday, May 3. This will actually be a fox hunting practice session at either the Schaumburg Community recreation Center, located at 505 N Springinsguth Road (intersection of Bode Road and Springinsguth Road), or possibly in Busse Woods. Bring your radio, antennas and your excitement, and join the fun!

Field Day 2014

QST

CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY NOVEMBER NINE ROMEO JULIET VICTOR CQ FIELD DAY

It's that time of year again. Field Day is right around the corner. The big event takes place this year on Saturday June 28th and Sunday June 29th 2014. Preliminary antenna setup will occur after 1:00 PM on Friday, June 27th.

More details will follow in the June 2014 issue of the RHG and via emails to SARC-ALL. Also, check the club web site for updated field day links. Once the links are updated, they will take you to 2 signup forms. The first link is to sign up for the various operating stations (we refer to them as tents) and the second link takes you to the operations form. The operations form covers all of the activities and supplies that are needed for the event.

Now, if you are new to this concept of Field Day or just really curious, check out all of the Field Day information on the ARRL website, <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>. So mark your calendars and start thinking about how you want to participate in the 2014 Field Day event.

73,

Dennis White – KC9NZP
Field Day Coordinator

Calendar and things to do

May

ARRL Centennial QSO Party	1/1 – 365 days, all 50 states, all bands, many modes
Breakfast at Maxfields	3
QRP to the Field	3
Indiana QSO Party	3-4
New England QSO Party	3-4
Board of directors meeting	7
SARC in the Park	10
Volta WW RTTY	10-11
EmComm Roundtable	17
Club meeting	15
SARC in the Park	24
CQ WW WPX CW	24-25

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: May 3, 2014
Results for April 5, 2014
Park District CRC; Sr. Center;
Sunshine Room.

CLASS	NUMBER TESTED	NEW LICENSE or UPGRADE
Technician	2	2
General	4	4
Extra	0	0
Total	6	6

New Licenses:

****Technician****

Alexander Novak	KD9AYC
Laura Doolin	KD9AXT

****General****

Lance L. Oines	KD9ADK
Pazhayanur Ramanujam	KD9AXS
John Sandow	KD9APP
Arnold J. Kazmer	K9AJK

****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 retake 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](mailto:n9mvo@sbglobal.net) 847-981-1481
- Vice Pres.** Leo Ribordy N9NBH
[leoribordy <at> sbcglobal.net](mailto:leoribordy@sbglobal.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>

