

The Radio Hill Gazette

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July 2014

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www.arrl.org

From the Editor

Welcome to another edition of the Radio Hill Gazette.

CQ FIELD DAY

That's what will be heard on the bands the last weekend in June. This is an operating event like none other. In many respects it's a readiness exercise: go somewhere, setup and operate. But how then do we determine how "ready" you were? Well, we count the number of stations you contacted, and what else you did while you were operating, such as alternate power, involving community representatives, and passing specific message traffic, to name a few. The standard tag line is that Field Day is not a contest. If it's not, then why keep score? Why count anything? Because it gives you something to improve on next year! You can make more contacts, earn more points for extra activities. That's why we do it. (Actually, some of us do it because it's fun!)

We need your help to better our efforts. We need people to operate and make contacts, and this is the main reason we do this. We need people to setup equipment and resources. We need people to do all the support tasks, such as preparing meals, arranging resources (drinks, napkins, trash bags, etc) for utilization, escorting guests and distinguished visitors, cleaning up as the activities wind down. If you want to operate, get your name on the list, show up and get on the air. There are so many things to be done in support of those who do operate and we need your help in support of the operating part of this activity. So, please, show up and help out in any way can so we can so we can better our performance from last year.

If you are new to amateur radio, this is a perfect chance to get some first hand training and experience. There will be other amateurs on hand to answer your questions. Don't feel comfortable on your own? Don't worry, we're all glad to help. If you haven't been to a Field Day activity in a few years, perhaps this is a good year to get involved! If you haven't been active on the air in a long time, this is a great opportunity to spark your interest anew, come out and see what's happening.

Anthony
Editor, RHG

Field Day 2014

A Brief Explanation of Field Day

Field Day is a North American radio operating event sponsored by the ARRL and the RAC (Canada). The first Field Day was held in 1933. It has occurred most every year since then (except 1942 to 1945). The object of Field Day is to work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries. (From: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>)

In recent years, the club has been operating as 2A (2 Alpha) which means 2 HF stations (which we usually call “tents”) running on 100% emergency power. In our case, our emergency power is provided by generators. Since we are 2A, the ARRL Field Day rules allow us to have 2 additional free “bonus” stations. The first station operates on the VHF/UHF bands. The second station operates on the HF bands and is called the **Get On The Air** or **GOTA** station. The GOTA station provides an opportunity for Hams who don’t operate HF very often a chance to Get On The Air. Additionally, with the proper direct supervision of a licensed control operator, even non-hams can get on the air.

Lately, the 3 HF stations have used some form of wire dipole while the VHF/UHF station uses a 6M and a 2M beam

The SARC Field Day Activity Timeline Break Down

Friday

For SARC, Field Day set up begins on Friday after 1:00 PM. We meet at the water tower (tank) on Plum Grove road.

The goal of this day is to prep the water tower for our Field Day antennas. The tent captains have the option to begin their preparations as well. Many of our Field Day supplies are stored in the garage in the pump house.

The climbers ascend the tower and set up the safety cable that spans from the south anchor point to the north anchor point. Helmets are required by any personnel on or near the tower during the antenna setup phase.

The hoisting pulley and hoisting rope is installed with a 5 gallon bucket to lift material to the top of the tower.

Three (3) pulleys are installed for the SSB, CW and GOTA station antennas. They are located at approximately the North, East and South positions along the water tower railing. A rope is installed on each pulley. The tradition has been to use some sort of wire dipole antenna for these 3 stations. The antennas and coax are installed on Saturday morning.

The 2M and 6M beams are installed on the railing of the water tank. The rotor is calibrated to North. Both coax lines are connected and marked as to which is 2M and 6M. There is a lot of material that needs to be hoisted up to the climbers.

This is also a good opportunity, time permitting, do perform maintenance on the SARC repeater antennas and replace any burnt out light bulbs. There are 2 red light bulbs on the top of the tower and at least 6 bulbs in the ladder tunnel.

The goal is to complete Friday setup operations before dinner time.

Saturday

The operating portion of Field Day occurs between 1:00 PM CST on Saturday until 1:00 PM on Sunday.

Saturday setup begins (typically) between 8:00 and 9:00 AM. We must wait for one of the key holders to arrive and open the gate. Sometimes, the gate is already open due to one of the village workers being present.

When setup begins, it is all hands on deck to get everything ready for the 1:00 PM CST start time.

The basic outline of activities includes but is not limited to:

- Electrical setup
 - Setup generator, fire extinguishers, fuel, check oil,
 - Run heavy gauge extension cords
- Antenna and coax setup
- Radio station tent setup (run by each tent (station) captain)
- Common area setup
 - Big tent shelter
 - Tables and chairs
 - Information Table
 - Greeting table near entry gate
 - Sign-in sheet. (Everyone that visits the site needs to sign in.)

- Food tables inside pump house
- Coolers with ice for beverages
- Food preparation
- Cooking grills
- White Board to log QSO totals every 2 hours
- Board to track bonus points
- Trash bins with bags
- Recycle bin
- Lots of paper towels

Saturday, 1:00 PM CDT

Radio operations begin. The basic task is to make contacts with as many other Field Day stations as possible in the next 24 hours.

See the ARRL Field Day packet for many more details.

The various bonus point activities that need to occur:

- 100% Emergency Power
- Media Publicity
- Set-up in Public Place
- Information Booth
- NTS Message to ARRL SM/SEC
- W1AW Field Day Message
- Formal NTS messages handled
- Satellite QSO completed
- Natural Power QSOs completed
- Site Visit by invited elected official
- Site Visit by invited served agency official
- Education Activity Bonus
- Youth Element achieved
- GOTA Bonus
- Submitted using the b4h.net applet

We have dinner around 5:00 PM. Club members are requested to bring a dish to pass. They can also bring snacks for the times between the 2 main meals.

We have breakfast around 5:30 AM and 6:30 AM. It depends how early Cliff decides to start.

Sunday

Sunday, 1:00 PM CDT

Radio operations cease.

VERY IMPORTANT:

The radio logs need to be transferred to the Field Day coordinator so that the ARRL Field Day summary sheet can be completed. Sooner is better than later. Sometimes formats need to be converted or interpreted.

Now begins the task of dismantling everything, cleaning up our mess and returning all of the equipment to its proper location. There are many little details that are too numerous to list.

This is often when we need more help as many of the operators and all night participants are quite tired.

A very partial list:

- The tower needs to be climbed to retrieve all of the antennas.
- The pump house floor must be swept and mopped as one of the last things we do before we leave.
- The trash bags need to be hauled away by various volunteers.

The final activity is the submission of the Field Day summary sheet to the ARRL. The Field Day coordinator has 30 days to compile and submit this information.

If seasoned participants think of any key activities that I missed, please let me know and I will add them to the list for next year. I hope that this document will expand as time goes on.

73

Dennis White, KC9NZP

SARC Field Day Coordinator, June 2014

Field Day memories

Some of you may remember....

“How about the time the storm hit and I was left standing in a puddle of water with a submerged electrical connection, next to a large round cylindrical lightning rod, with lightning flashing all around me, and I lived :-)” Kent, W9KAO

“I remember that one, I had to run home to get my 706 to replace the drowned HF rig, at midnight. Like someone turned on a hose. No rain at all and within 30 seconds it was coming down like a monsoon, I couldn't even go out in it because I couldn't see without my glasses in those days, and within 5 seconds they were so wet there was no way to focus.” Charles, N5HSR

“Having captained the GOTA tent last June 2013 FD, I propose we change the acronym from GOTA (Get-On-The-Air) to “GOTTA”. I GOTTA find more rookie HAM operators.... I GOTTA get more Contest/contact points.... I GOTTA get a better HF Transceiver and antenna setup for this tent.... I GOTTA get more sleep.... I GOTTA find an easier Field Day job next year!!! ” Mike, AC9CG

“It's a long, long, time ago, in a land far, far, away, I remember very fondly I am 99% positive in my remembering, the very first SARC Field Day, 1976. ” Joe, WB9SBD

“Let the games begin, the competition is on... Using a vintage radio, we made contacts throughout the day and night. Sleep is for the weak! My daughter made more contacts in an hour than I did in three! What's up with that? SARC GOTA Tent, Field Day 2013” Steve, AC9EM

“I remember my first Field Day. I asked 'what's that station?' and was told 'That's the CW guys, they get us all those points! They're serious!' I learned CW and have operated with 'the CW guys' every year since.” Anthony, AB9YC

A page from the Contest Diary

Anthony Willard

AB9YC

Contest: CQ WPX CW

Date: May 24-25, 2014

I set out to do a single band effort (only chosen band contacts count for points) on 20M with a goal of 500 QSO's, and had a good start with only two hours to my first 100 QSO's. I called it a night and got up with the sun to see what was new, but it wasn't much. I logged only a few dozen in almost the same time as the night before and most everyone else was already in the logs. I went up to 15M and only logged a few before returning to 20M and eventually finding something else to do with the nice weather.

I checked back in throughout the day and nothing new; the band seemed dead.

After a "beef on the grill" episode, I came back in the late afternoon and was able to get some work in. It was nice to get so much DX in the log, and to have JA's (Japan), DL's (Germany) and UA's (Russia) answering my CQ; I had my first ever 4Z4 (Israel) answer my CQ. I had a few short runs with rates over 100/hr, but they were short lived. This represented my longest stint in then chair, but I wasn't always in it. I took about a 90 minute stretch where I put my keyboard on a box and operated standing up – it was different, and I'll definitely do it again. I retired for the evening with another 200 in the log. Not nearly as productive as I wanted, but I had another 24 hours to go.

I knew that Sunday morning would likely be a bust so I only gave it a cursory scan before writing it off. I watched some auto racing and checked the band periodically for improvement. In the mid afternoon it seemed to be recovering so I hopped in the chair and pushed for my final effort. The band seemed very strange, with sometimes rapid and deep QSB. I recall one contact, TM0R (France), where the QSB hit mid-QSO but recovered quickly so I got that one in the log.

I was happy to find YN2GY (Nicaragua) (Eric, K9GY is an acquaintance who travels to this location for this event) and get him in the log, as Central and South America were sparse. I seem to have limited success with western hemisphere trans-equatorial contacts.

I would run at the top of the hour, get short spurts, then scan the band (14000-14070, the typical CW portion). On a whim late in the day, I moved up beyond 14070 (typically the digital sub-band) and found a few callers. Many were already in the books, but I kept looking. I managed to score K1ZZ

(Dave Sumner, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary of the ARRL - super Centennial points!) way up at 14087, so I was glad I looked.

I finished up with 460 20M contacts in the logs, including a few new band/mode/countries.

Some final thoughts.

For CW, I use a 300Hz filter, which is very, very nice when the bands are congested like for this contest. I'm amazed how many people don't call remotely close to zero-beat. So many times I would respond to a caller, only to have him actually be answering a running station outside of my pass band; many times, though, they were actually calling me! It was sometimes difficult to determine who was mine and who was not, so I answered everybody.

Since I was actually putting in a conscious effort to post a good score, I kept close watch on my progress. This contest assigns points based on country and continent, with same country/continent being worth fewer points than far away ones. The one metric I found most entertaining was the average point value per contact. The target score to beat (based on past scores) averaged 1.7 points per QSO; my final mark was 1.9 which meant I got many more DX than domestic. My chance for a good outcome following busted calls and penalties is pretty good in my opinion.

I'll leave the discussion about cut numbers for some other time.

One final thing is the European "racers", those HST (high speed telegraphy) ops who are determined to blaze along at 40wpm; if they're running, so be it, I'll pass them by. Here I was running at 25wpm, where I'm very comfortable, and up pops a dit guy (no, not that or dat guy). Huh? He's sending at 35+, and I send repeated replies to slow down but he keeps sending. Was he a "II", some "H5", or something else? He eventually gave up and moved on. Eh. His loss. I later found a running station that took me several passes to get a handle on, and I think it was him, S55T (... .. -). Dits are the number one problem area when using CW, so you would think that someone with such a string of them in his call would be more considerate. But, that's just me.

I'll wait for my LCR (log check report) to see how well I did and make plans for next year. I had fun, and I'll be back next year.

Until next time, 73.

Anthony

AB9YC

SARC Fox Hunt Excitement Continues!!!

Steve Karson

AC9EM

Fox Hunt Chairman and SARC Director

To field test the newly purchased Micro-Fox 15 T-Hunt Transmitter, we held our first “on foot” fox hunt in Busse Woods on Saturday, June 7, 2014. In fact – due to popular demand, we held two additional “bonus hunts”... The goal was to test both the hunter’s skill and the Micro-Fox 15 under actual field conditions. The MF15 performed superbly and did not disappoint. The intrepid hunters accepted the challenge and appeared to enjoy the exercise. In fact, the hunters may be ready for two more MF15 units to make the fox hunts even more challenging... I will recommend this plan to the SARC Board.



The Hunters

AC9CG, Mike Clodfelter

AC9EM, Steve Karson

AC9IG, Matt Walsh

K9QD, Cliff Sowka, (1st hunt winner)

KB9JEJ, Bruce Widenhoefer

N9MVO, Rob Glowacki, (3rd hunt winner)

W9JFB, Jim Brink

WA9PEB, Tony Jedlinski (2nd hunt winner)

(Apologies if I missed anyone)



Be Advised: There is a Fox Hunt Planned in July

Weather permitting – the next “fox hunt” will be after Breakfast at Maxfield’s on Saturday, July 5, in Busse Woods. Bring your radio, antennas, attenuator, drinks, and other gear... maybe some insect repellent too...

Note: if you don’t have an HT or the right antenna, come anyway and join a team.

Calendar and things to do

July

ARRL Centennial QSO Party	1/1 – 365 days, all 50 states, all bands, many modes
W1AW/9 – IL	June 25-July1 UTC
Field Day	June 28-29
13 Colonies Special Event	1-6
Board of directors meeting	2
Breakfast at Maxfields	5
SARC in the Park	12
IARU HF W.C.	12-13
EmComm Roundtable	19
Club meeting	17
NA QSO Party, RTTY	19-20

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.

Looking ahead

Pilot Pete's Dinner	September 13, 2014
WW II Reenactment	September 20, 2014
Christmas Party	January 15, 2015
Cruise	2016

VE Testing Results



Results for June 7, 2014
 Next Test July 5, 2014
 Park District CRC; Sr. Center;
 Sunshine Room.

CLASS	NUMBER TESTED	NEW LICENSE or UPGRADE
Technician	6	6
General	3	3
Extra	1	1
Total	10	10

New/Upgraded Licenses:

****Technician****

Frank Reidelberger KD9BMR
 Brain Wulff KD9BMS
 Rodney Hintz KD9BMU
 Donald Hunter KD9BMV
 Dimitrois Chronakos KD9BMW
 Christopher Westphal KD9BMX

****General****

Edward Clayton N6WJA
 Bernard Calo KD9BMT
 Nicholas Neri KD9BFY

****Amateur Extra****

William Faehse AC9IT

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>

