

The Radio Hill Gazette

May 2015

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From the Editor

Welcome to another edition of the Radio Hill Gazette.

Wow, spring is here and I hope you are enjoying the change to nicer weather.

I was looking through my logs and found a few interesting items.

First, I'm above my QSO count compared to the same time last year. This is interesting because last year played host to the ARRL Centennial QSO Party, which was plenty of reason to make contacts and log points.

Second, my typical response ratio shows that I get 60% of my QSL's in Logbook of the World (LotW) within 4 days of a contact; the rate drops to a trickle after 4 days. This means I receive most of my confirmations within a few days of making contact.

That 60% is interesting for another reason as well, it's the percentage of QSL's I receive for QSO's. If I want a confirmation of a specific region, area, state, zone, or whatever, I need to make at least 2 contacts. These numbers are only averages, so places like Andorra or Reunion Island buck the trend as I have half a dozen to each entity and still have zero QSL's! The same goes for NV on 80M. The game moves on...

Field Day 2015 is fast approaching, and the club is making plans in earnest. There is plenty to do, from planning operations, to securing resources needed to actually operate. If you want to help out, say something. We need all the help we can get to actually operate, please plan on operating during FD 2015 and not just socializing. After April's club meeting, I was surprised at the "spirited" discussions regarding Field Day. Please bring that level of enthusiasm to Field Day 2015.

Anthony
Editor, RHG



Road trip: K9CT

Anthony Willard AB9YC



Illustration 1: Craig K9CT

Recently, I arranged for a tour of the K9CT contest station in Trivoli, IL, courtesy of Craig (K9CT).

Joining me for the tour was Arnie (K9AJK), Kevin (KB9QVX), Leo (N9NBH) and Steve (AC9EM). Steve would meet us at the rally point, Arnie volunteered to drive the rest of us. The weather was clear and sunny. The 3 hour trip gave us time to cover many topics, share stories and just pass the time.



Illustration 2: Antenna farm



Illustration 3: Feed line and power

We met up with Craig at a local restaurant, where he joined us for lunch. Right away, Craig was talking about receivers, power and setups. His passion for Amateur Radio is evident. The discussion quickly moved to Field Day setups and ideas, plenty to think about.

With lunch complete, we made the short trip to the station, which is less of a station and more of a complex – over a dozen acres of towers, supports and plenty of shiny aluminum.



Illustration 4: Wireless control

Craig showed us the antenna farm, outlining the hookups, explained how it all is controlled. He pointed out the various configurations, which towers were for which bands. He has towers spread out with thousands of feet of large diameter feedline and power – let's be clear, he has runs of over 1,000 feet! Antenna control is done using wireless technology.

He showed us his prep shed, which is actually the size of a barn – actually a converted equestrian training facility. This is an indoor location where he can store and assemble various antennas, depending on his needs, upcoming



Illustration 5: How it all works

expeditions or perhaps repair and replacement of current antennas – it takes a lot of space to assemble a full size 80M multi-element beam.

We proceeded indoors to the actual operating station. He has sleeping spots for 6 and portable arrangements for many more, a complete kitchen, a media room, and full bathroom with shower.



Illustration 6: Prep shed

All we'd seen up to this point was in support of what came next – the operations area. There are 8 operating positions, with 2 each for CW, SSB, VHF/UHF and EME. The stations are mostly identical and configurable for any specific combination to suit the needs of a given contest, multi-single, multi-two, multi-multi. If he needs more stations for SSB, he can take over the CW stations. Craig explained how a typical station position is configured, what controls are available to the operator, and how operators can work together during a contest to maximize the overall score. He briefly covered the technology that is used to provide features such as antenna control, band switching, multi-transmitter lockout, and much, much more.



Illustration 7: How it's all arranged

He demonstrated working at an operating position, showing how a typical contact would take place, highlighting the simplicity with which an operator can select a band, move an antenna, select an antenna arrangement within a stack, even leverage the capabilities of a the receiver (in this instance, an Elecraft K3) to maximize contacts – a must for DX contests where far away stations represent multipliers. Everything is built to support rate – the pace of getting contacts in the log. The more efficiently you can get contacts in the log, the higher the overall score will be.



Illustration 8: How it all works

He built this entire station complex to do what he wants it to do, and that is compete in contests. All the design decisions, all the equipment selections, all the software configurations, all the technical challenges he had to handle, is represented here. His enthusiasm for this shows in how he's assembled his station, how he continually seeks to eliminate short-comings, to improve on any weaknesses – an embodiment of his passion.



Illustration 9: L-R, K9CT, N9NBH, AC9EM, KB9QVX, K9AJK

We figured we'd taken up enough of Craig's Saturday. We thanked him for his time to give us a tour, and set off for home. We had plenty to talk about on the way back, most centered around ideas and concepts we saw first hand, and how we might be able to use what we learned in our own stations.

A special thanks to Craig for the tour. Thanks to Arnie for driving. Thanks to Arnie, Kevin, Leo and Steve for experiencing with me a unique HAM experience on a nice Saturday in April.

You can view a recent presentation by Craig about station planning and assembly at <http://wwrof.org/webinar-archive/planning-your-contest-station-by-craig-thompson-k9ct/>.

Anthony

AB9YC dit dit

Treatise on Change

Anthony AB9YC

Anyone who studies biological life on our planet reaches a simple conclusion: nature has very few rules, but those rules govern all life on our planet. One such rule, evolution, comes in two parts: 1) evolve or die, 2) evolve and die.

Let's begin with the first part, evolve or die. When an organism in a group of like organisms develops some characteristic, usually as a result of mutation, that allows it to be successful in surviving in its environment, that characteristic is passed on to successive generations and the group lives on. When such a characteristic allows the organism to survive where it would die without it, the organism succeeds in surviving – not dieing.

Don't get caught up in time scales here, it's not pertinent, and the same rules apply to organisms living only a few days (ie amoebas) just the same as ones that live centuries (ie redwood trees).

Now let's look at the second part, evolve and die. When an organism develops a characteristic that allows it to leverage a resource within it's environment, perhaps a resource where it doesn't have competition, it can be successful. In this case, the lack of the new characteristic doesn't prohibit the organism from surviving, it only makes survival less stressful to have it. When that adaptation becomes a pivotal component to survival is where the twist comes in. Suppose the resource disappears, what happens to that organism that relies on it as a primary, if not sole, means for survival? In this case, the organism evolved to a literal dead end, it evolved and died.

At the time of any particular mutation manifestation, it is impossible to pass judgment on whether it will be beneficial or not, or on what timescale will it be proved out. It takes time for any mutation to be judged as a successful and beneficial change that allows any organism to survive, or as a dead end the led to the organisms' demise.

Where are we?

In my limited experience within the Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club, (SARC) Field Day always had a head, a chairperson. My observations indicate that this chair person didn't control every aspect of Field Day, but instead relied on tent captains and other task leaders to step up to perform the necessary tasks. It's through the efforts of these mostly self-directed individuals that we have achieved our success as a club. This has to be high on the list of decentralized command and control that proves it can be successful.

This year, when the call went out for a new Field Day Chairperson, the silence was deafening. Nobody stepped forward to assume the responsibility of letting the various task leaders make Field Day a success.

“Like sands through the hourglass...” goes the line, but weeks slipped by without a Field Day Chairperson. At this point, two people stepped up to the challenge and agreed to take the position as co-leaders. Having never done a past Field Day “job” before, these individuals brought their own experience and backgrounds to the task and attempted to document and identify as many aspects of Field Day as possible – a well documented process is a highly repeatable process. In so doing, they could no longer rely on the “hope” that a tent captain could do all that was necessary. They needed to know what those tasks were. They wanted to document these steps and requirements so that future Field Day Chairpersons would have documentation on all that needed to be done. As a result, the leadership model is more of a centralized structure than the decentralized styled utilized in the past. This has led to some authoritarian-like decisions about how we will do Field Day this year.

The past decentralized style led some to feel that their opinions were “more important” than others and that they had a say in what took place. In reality, it was more of a collective direction accepted where no other direction was provided. Since it didn't prove to be bad in the past, it should be good in the future. Quite simply, it worked.

I see this as a change, and we *ALL* know that change be tough, for some people more than others. Like all biological life on our planet only time will tell if such a change will be beneficial.

For all of you who feel in some way threatened by the change, you've had your say. Now is the time to let history be the judge. Here is my challenge to you: support the efforts or stay out of the way. Let's let our results decide how successful Field Day is this year. When it's all said and done, you might be able to proudly pound your chest and say “I told you so!” So be it, but in my mind anything short of outright, burn-to-ground failure, we will be a success, and we can build on it for next year.

Please support our efforts to make SARC Field Day 2015 the best it can be in the circumstances we have and be proud the we did our best. But don't hinder us. If you don't agree, please stay out of the way. Snicker from the sidelines if you must, but keep it to yourselves, and let history be the judge. I'll see you at the finish line.

Anthony

AB9YC

What Field Day means to me

I originally posted this question to the mailing during the furor over recent Field Day discussions. My attempt was to round up as many possible goals for how we should proceed with our Field Day planning in years to come. Simply, if we know what we want to accomplish, we can make our plans to support those goals. Below is what I received.

I see Field Day as an operational exercise with 3 basic classifications. The first is mission critical. As an operational exercise, any person or resource actually operating is mission critical, meaning without it we fail. Mission critical gets top priority. The second is mission support. This category represents all the logistical support provided to the mission critical resources, like keeping generators running, assisting in station setup and ongoing operations, feeding mission critical operators. Without these, our success is jeopardized, but it can continue in a perhaps reduced capacity. The last is peripheral. This last category pretty much encompasses anything not covered in the prior examples. This category represents everything that we can "do without", meaning that if we don't have it our capability is not diminished. - *AB9YC*

Choosing a new location will generate more opportunities for our members to contribute to the effort and more opportunities to let public know about the hobby of amateur radio. We will have all the operation positions we have had in the past, new challenges for support roles and new problems to solve. Simply stated it will require more work from more people but it will offer the opportunity for more fun to be had by more members. - *W9JFP*

What's the point? It had already been decided Field Day will be held at the Fire Station. End of discussion. - *W9KAO*

I commented to your original email with what is hopefully is a more complete ARRL position on the subject compared to the severely edited verbiage used in other emails. The ARRL statements are consistent with the field day events I've participated in, my first in June, 1960. I realize that much of this is futile as facts and opinions are being intermingled. As someone said: "Don't bother me with facts, my mind is made up!" Thanks for the opportunity to sound off with less emotion. - *K9WIC*

In a real emergency, water towers, etc. would probably be secured by the National Guard or Army. No suspect hams allowed. Less operators, thus. It would be interesting to see what towers and antennas would be used by SARC for Field Day now. I am thinking cranes, cherry pickers, kites, balloons. Let's add no cell phones and no repeaters....mmm. I am thinking Winlink HF email, APRS messaging, etc. - *KC9SGV*

Editorial: What Field Day Means To Me

Gary Bernstein N9VU

[Originally, I requested a 100 word essay on the topic. But this one came in with more heart and I felt it should be seen in its entirety. Ed.]

Field Day means a lot to me. I've been doing FD for a number of years with a variety of Ham Clubs in different states and in each event I've discovered things I like and look forward to. Here's what draws me into participating in Field Day.

For an OM like me it's a chance to brush up on my both my operating and technical skills above all else. I am hooked on operating for one thing. For years I was dormant getting on the air from my home simply due to a lack of confidence in myself and in my station. Keep in mind it was eons since I was active HF. A few years ago I sat down at our 40m SSB tent logging contacts for a newbie operator who was tired and frustrated on how this "Field Day" thing worked. In no time I gave him confidence and guidance on how to do it himself, then I took over the operating chair. It was like the beam of light from above and a rediscovered interest of mine taking over the microphone. Well, it was me really. From that moment on I had more confidence at home to work contests AND just have QSO's on the air. FD gave me a kick in the behind and more confidence in myself and Ham Radio actually. I enjoyed operating at the GOTA tent and showing other newbies how to OP FD. Learning and sharing, that's what it's all about.

Field Day also means a time to brush up on my technical skills as well. From soldering connectors onto coax (yeah I was BAD) from the pros, to constructing antennas, and I recall one FD from years gone by my own rig failed and I had it back online in 30 min thanks to another's expertise. For what it's worth I enjoy just doing the bull work of labor as well. I need the exercise and fresh air these days.

So in short Field Day to me means, operating, learning, and of course hanging out with my friends at SARC. Do I smell BBQ?

Thanks for reading,

Gary

N9VU

A Call for Programs

May's business meeting historically occurs without a regularly scheduled presentation because we use the time for Field Day preparations. Presentation will be Field Day planning.

June: Looking for presentations. Please take a look at some suggestions below and let me know if you wish to be a speaker during our June meeting. I can help with PowerPoint or downloading videos for you.

Potential Topics

RF Transmission Fundamentals
 Semiconductor Developments
 Managing Pileups
 Village of Schaumburg Volunteers
 Inductive / Capacitive Reactance
 SDR / Dongle Radio Tricks
 Antenna Basics / Installation
 Lightning Protection

ARRL Awards
 Operating Tips
 Public Service
 Field Day Planning
 Biasing Transistors
 Grid Locators
 Advanced Antenna Tricks
 Shack Electrical Facilities

ARRL Contests
 QSL Card Process
 Emergency Communications
 Basic Electronics
 uController Projects
 Frequency Charts
 Measuring Antenna Impedance
 Solar Cycle Considerations

Ideas for presentations are endless. Our membership has talented and experienced people who are asked to contribute to interesting business meetings by bringing some of their knowledge forward for all to benefit.

Please let me know if you wish to present a topic and I will include your ideas into the schedule. Then our diverse membership will provide enthusiastic participation for a rewarding outcome.

Cliff Sowka K9QD
Program Chair

SARC club meeting at SRC (Schaumburg Recreational Center) on 16April, 2015

Paula Uscian (K9IR): resumed DX topics at 6:30-7:00PM pre-meeting

Leo Ribordy (N9NBH), SARC President presided.

36 HAMs signed attendance sheet

Question of the Evening: (1)Do you use LOTW (Logbook Of The World)? and (2) Have you operated DX?

Treasurer's Report, Chris Brewer (AC9GN): (for Jan 1, 2015 thru April 16, 2015)

Beginning balance	\$3,069.64
Income	\$270.42
Expense	\$375.00
Ending Balance	\$2,965.06

Motion to approve and Report approved by SARC members

Secretary's Report, Mike Clodfelter (AC9CG): for 19March2015 SARC meeting. Motion made and Report approved by SARC members. From now on, Secretary's report will be submitted to RHG for publication by 20th of Month. Members can submit additions/correction to secretary for inclusion in following month's report.

Public Service, Rob Glowacki (N9MVO): MS walk at Cabellas in Hoffman Estates coming up on May 3rd. SARC needs route, MS org still working on map. May3, 7AM-12noon. Sign up with Rob, sign up with MS Walk, Rob will repeat email announcement before event. Other events: Hoffman Estates July4 Parade and Schaumburg Triathlon, later.

RHG newsletter: Anthony Willard (AB9YC): nothing new, but monthly RHG items submission deadline is 20th.

Repeater, Kent Ochs (W9KAO): Repeater is up and working. added grounding, tested, moved link frequency twice (after first change found to interfere with Chicago repeater freq)

Construction, Ted Lester (AB9SZ): One more Construction project day on Apr 25th at Tennis club, bring projects, then back to SARC in Park (May-Sept 2015). Have had good attendance.

VE Testing, Steve Karson (AC9EM): 8 people tested/passed, 1st Sat of every month, in SRC bldg.

Social, Roger Ryan (W9RDR) : nothing new to report

Nets, Jim Brink (W9JFB): not present

Education, Cliff Sowka (K9QD): offered course at SRC but no signups, 2 inquiries to Leo

Foxhunt: Steve (AC9EM): resume after May 2nd breakfast. Open to all

Publicity, Arnie (K9AJK): nothing new to report

Programs, Cliff Sowka (K9QD): need more topics/volunteers, Kevin W. tonight - how to tune a duplexer.

Emcom, Bob Langsfeld (WB9TZC): rubberstamp on commercial antenna installation, quotes in, Bill to give OK but out of town. (Cliff S.: Bob L/ instrumental in getting SARC position at Schaumburg police station.) Need place at ElkGrove. Emcomm round table moved from Hoffman Estates to Amateur radio station at Palatine (220 Illinois Blvd. Fire station) for April. Emcomm round table cancelled in May due to Dayton Hamvention.

Ebay sales, Gary Berstein (N9VU): not here. Rob G: sold receivers (\$350 total), oscilloscope?

Recurring calendar, Leo R.: old/new business? Get list of 2016 officer candidates for next year by Sept 2015

Old business: Yaesu repeater purchased before March 30th deadline, but offer was extended, Repeater unit is back-ordered.

New business: SARC club Minutes to Anthony/RHG editor by 20th, RHG published by 25th. Paula recommended, seconded and approved by SARC club members

Budget, Chris Brewer: presented Detailed Excel xls budget (motion made to amend budget and passed by member vote)

Miscellaneous June 2015 ARRL Field day issues (many contributors), just partial list:

Need to buy or borrow ~200-250ft of Coax Cable. Dirk Smith (K9DFS) offered to arrange loaner truck.

Schaumburg High field, approval with Schaumburg, Firehouse (SARC members bathroom), Police station (Public bathrooms for visitors), Next to memorial area, No parking on road or fire lane, unload from parking lot. Need diagram for setup, where to park, Arnie sent dimensions, K9CT (Peoria ham with massive antenna farm gave recommendations)

Paula U.: antenna structures. Leo: 4 light poles for antennas. Arnie: Parking is not an issue. Kent: only slightly larger than existing site. Water Tower is more flexible, can isolate different bands easier. Too much interference now at water tank (may be worse at Schaumburg Rd). Need antenna layout plan. Need testing. Leo: Schaumburg road location transmit/antenna testing at end of May. No plan to dual submit permit apps. Emcomm and ICS. 21 years at water tower. Issues at Water Tower; new mgmt. at Schaumburg puts water tower in question. Arnie: federal laws, who has keys? Some members who have keys are not registered (fingerprinted?) with

village. Shore power needed for FD. Water tower locks were changed. Kent: no connections with Schaumburg village manager for Water tank tower.

Paula U: can we survive? – yes. Good to test for real emergency, over several weeks. Need to re-establish relationships with Sch. Village mgmt. Worst case: if bad 2015 FD, know what to do for next time. Arnie: Phil Clark - emergency coordinator. We're being asked to participate in village emergency event.

Kevin Williard (KB9QVX) presentation was pre-empted by continuing Field Day debate that lasted for rest of meeting. Too many FD debate details to capture and report here.

Submitted: 20April2015

Mike Clodfelter, SARC secretary

Trading post, things for sale or trade

“Nothing! I have absolutely nothing!”

Calendar and things to do

May

Breakfast at Maxfields	2
NEQP/7QP/INQP/DEQP	2-3
Board of directors meeting	6
EmComm Roundtable	16
Club Meeting	21
CQ WPX CW	30-31

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

Cruise	2016
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VE Testing Results

Results for April 4, 2015
 Next Test May 2, 2015
 Park District CRC; Sr. Center;
 Sunshine Room.



CLASS	NUMBER TESTED	NEW LICENSE or UPGRADE
Technician	4	4
General	1	1
Extra	1	1
Total	6	6

New/Upgraded Licenses:

****Technician****

Dennis Busch KD9DLU
 Andrew Galbraith KD9DLV
 Randal Hansen KD9DLW
 Joseph Cusimano KD9DLX

****General****

Jay Silverman KD9DEY

****Amateur Extra****

Joel Gray N5FIW

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. Springinguth Road
Schaumburg, IL 60168-0251

The CRC is located at the S.E. corner of Springinguth 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

The Radio Hill Gazette

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 K9IIK repeater; 145.23 MHz -600 kHz with 107.2 Hz PL.

Club Officers – 2015

President:	Leo Ribordy	N9NBH	Director:	Rob Glowacki	N9MVO	(2016)
Vice Pres.	Steve Karson	AC9EM	Director:	Anthony Willard	AB9YC	(2016)
Secretary:	Mike Clodfelter	AC9CG	Director:	Kevin Willard	KB9QVX	(2017)
Treasurer:	Chris Brewer	AC9GN	Director:	Ted Lester	AB9SZ	(2017)
			Director:	Gary Bernstein	N9VU	(2015)

Club Committees

Programs	Cliff Sowka, K9QD	RHG	Anthony Willard, AB9YC
Social Activities	Roger Ryan, W9RDR	Publicity	Open
Membership	Leo Ribordy, N9NBH	Net	Jim Brink, W9JFB
Education	Bruce Warrington, N9EHA	Technical Assistance	Ted Lester, AB9SZ
Public Service	Rob Glowacki, N9MVO	Fund Raising	Open
Emergency Communications	Bob Langsfeld, WB9TZC	Fox Hunt Coordinator	Steve Karson, AC9EM
Special Events/Field Day	Leo/N9NBH, Jim/W9JFB	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 email 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! Please make submissions by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next issue.

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

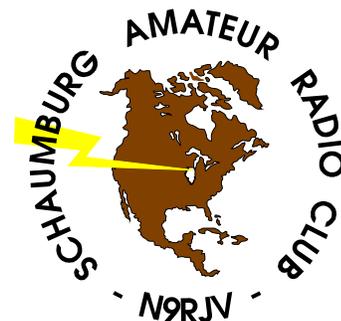
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Visit the SARC Home Page at <http://n9rjv.org>



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