

# The Radio Hill Gazette

June 2015

## Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| From the Editor.....   | 2  |
| Bringing An Old Rig Back To Life, the story of a Yaesu FT101EX.....              | 3  |
| Morse Code is Cool! Who knew?.....   | 4  |
| First 2015 Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club Fox Hunt.....                           | 6  |
| An Amazing Success.....  | 6  |
| A Call for Programs.....   | 7  |
| Trading post, things for sale or trade.....                                      | 8  |
| Calendar and things to do.....   | 8  |
| May.....   | 8  |
| June.....  | 8  |
| Looking ahead.....   | 8  |
| SARC board Meeting, May 6, 2015, Schaumburg Municipal Airport, Pilot Pete's..... | 9  |
| VE Testing Results.....  | 12 |
| SARC Email Reflector.....  | 13 |
| Club Nets.....   | 13 |
| Club Meetings.....   | 13 |
| Club Officers – 2015.....  | 13 |
| Club Committees.....   | 13 |
| Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club.....   | 14 |

## From the Editor

Welcome to another edition of the Radio Hill Gazette.

Summer is here, the kids are out of school (or soon will be), and the yard needs mowed.

With such nice weather nobody wants to stay indoors. Why not get outside and operate?! Sure, take any small rig into the yard, or perhaps go to a park or other public location, setup and operate from there. Enjoy the outdoors and radio at the same time.

Early June has nice enough weather to allow many outdoor radio adventures, so ask your friends, make a small event out of it.

Anthony  
Editor, RHG



## Bringing An Old Rig Back To Life, the story of a Yaesu FT101EX

Gary N9VU

Greetings all. Remember that old rig I brought to the Construction Project meeting this past season? The one that Rob and I feverishly tried to get SOMETHING or ANYTHING out of it? Short story, it's ALIVE on both transmit and receive now. I previously brought it to another party, a Ham who has a huge work bench at his home who told me basically it's not worth the time and money to repair.....finals are gone, 2 resistors are shot in the final cage, not oscillating, etc. Discouraged as I was and ready to Ebay it for parts, I didn't give up on the project though and found the issue to be with 1 pull out card (audio card) to bring the receiver back to life. Oh and the dead transmitter? It's putting out on average 125 watts from 2 6JS6 sweep tubes. The rest is a matter of aligning the xtal oscillators and finding real 10 meter crystals for the set. The CB xtals within are of no use to me and I enjoy 10m when it's open.

Anyway, I just felt compelled to share this story with you all who are familiar or not familiar with this project, or have an old set you've just about given up on in your shack. Never say die (Wayne Green's old phrase) and never give up on your project. All it takes is time and patience.

As mentioned before I am possibly going to attempt to resurrect the Construction Project through September, time permitting. Maybe you have an item that needs to be brought back to life like mine. Unsure about what's wrong? Share the experience with your fellow SARC members and friends. It's a great experience.

73 de,

Gary/N9VU

## Morse Code is Cool! Who knew?

By James Wades, WB8SIW

*(From the May 2015 issue of Solid Copy, the monthly newsletter of The CW Operators Club (CWops), check them out at <http://cwops.org>)*

I recently spent a rainy, cold, damp Saturday at Tamarack Boy Scout Camp in Michigan assisting with an "Emergency Preparedness Fair." During the event, Scout troops visited a number of "training locations" at which they received training on everything from first aid to survival skills. I was responsible for introducing them to disaster communications techniques.

The event was arranged in such a manner that groups of approximately 10 to 15 scouts would hike between training locations scattered throughout the campground, spending approximately 30 to 45 minutes at each location learning some new skills and ideas. It was my job to discuss emergency communications and signaling techniques.

In addition to discussing such topics as the limitations and vulnerabilities of cellular data networks, the telephone network and the Internet, we discussed such topics as how to properly communicate using two-way radio, the application of the phonetic alphabet, some basic voice radio procedures. I also gave each group of scouts a brief introduction to the International Morse Code and discussed ways in which information could be conveyed using Morse Code via different improvised techniques ranging from flashlights to signal mirrors, whistles, and even automobile horns. After some practical exercises designed to introduce the Scouts to the use of International Morse, I demonstrated Amateur Radio.

For this phase of the training event I had set up a battery-power station consisting of a Yaesu FT-897D, solar panels, and an end-fed half wave 40-meter antenna erected using a nearby tree for support. Instead of relying on casual contacts on the ham bands, I had arranged for a QMN CW Net member (WB9JSR) to be available on 40-meters. At the conclusion of each training session, I would invite one or two Scouts from each group to originate a "disaster message" in the form of a radiogram to a parent at home. Of course, instead of a welfare text, the Scouts were encouraged to tell their parent(s) that they were enjoying the event. I would then transmit the radiograms while the Scouts watched.

The results were fantastic! The Scouts were fascinated with ham radio and they particularly enjoyed the radiogram transmission process during which I transmitted their messages using my old reliable Army Signal Corps J-36 bug. We even received a reply radiogram from the father of one of the Scouts, which I transcribed onto a radiogram form for hand delivery.

After the training event concluded, I was approached by a number of parents who were assisting with the event, all of whom told me how much their son enjoyed the communications training in

general and the ham radio and Morse code demonstrations in particular. One woman reported that "all [her] son will talk about is how cool ham radio and Morse code are and he keeps telling me we've got to get a ham radio."

Apparently, traffic handling and CW can be cool! Who knew?

73, James WB8SIW

# The Radio Hill Gazette

## First 2015 Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club Fox Hunt

### An Amazing Success

Fearlessly charging across the rugged terrain, the intrepid hunters refused to be bested by the elusive microelectronic wonders. While approaching ever closer, the foxes continued taunting with their siren song, “Find me if you can, b-----s!”\* Nearby natives looked on askance – keeping their distance whilst wondering, “What drove these brave adventurers to perform such a foolhardy activity?”



Though others may recall the “hunt” somewhat differently, *Illustration 1: AB9YC and AC9EM starting the hunt* I can attest that a good time was had by all and the Dunkin Donuts and coffee were excellent. Be sure to join us for the next hunt, that is, if you are “ham enough”... Details to be announced on SARC All...

Steve, AC9EM

\*Somewhat liberal translation after all, the CW was approaching 40 wpm...



*Illustration 2: KC9ZID giving chase*



*Illustration 3: The wiley fox, one of three*

## A Call for Programs

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     | ARRL Awards                 | ARRL Contests               |
| Semiconductor Developments       | Operating Tips              | QSL Card Process            |
| Managing Pileups                 | Public Service              | Emergency Communications    |
| Village of Schaumburg Volunteers | Field Day Planning          | Basic Electronics           |
| Inductive / Capacitive Reactance | Biasing Transistors         | uController Projects        |
| SDR / Dongle Radio Tricks        | Grid Locators               | Frequency Charts            |
| Antenna Basics / Installation    | Advanced Antenna Tricks     | Measuring Antenna Impedance |
| Lightning Protection             | Shack Electrical Facilities | 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

## Trading post, things for sale or trade

“Nothing! I have absolutely nothing!”

## Calendar and things to do

### May

CQ WPX CW 30-31

### June

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Board of directors meeting | 3     |
| Breakfast at Maxfields     | 6     |
| Club Meeting               | 18    |
| EmComm Roundtable          | 20    |
| FIELD DAY                  | 27-28 |

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

## SARC board Meeting, May 6, 2015, Schaumburg Municipal Airport, Pilot Pete's

Attendees: Cliff Sowka (K9QD), Chris Brewer (AC9GN), Kevin Willard (KB9QVX), Ted Lester (AB9SZ), Anthony Willard (AB9YL), Roger Ryan (W9ROR), Gary Bernstein (N9VU), Leo Ribordy (N9NBH), Rob Glowacki (N9MVO), Steve Karson (AC9EM), Mike Clodfelter (AC9CG).

Treasurer's report, Chris B.: have not reconciled statement yet. Have an extra \$1K. Balance on April 1, 2015 was \$3,965.48. Income: \$250, Expenses \$303.44, Balance on April 30, 2015 is \$3,912.04

Motion to approve, seconded and passed.

Secretary's report, Leo R. reporting: Mike C. not there for April 2015 board meeting. No approval needed.

Membership report, Leo R./Chris B.: 66 -70+ paid (74?) members. 123 email addresses. Need to add to SARC roster. Name/callsign/email address can be published even if no permission. Cliff has complete file and can give to Anthony W. Don't want published in electronic format (can result in spam), paper only in SARC roster.

Public service, Rob G.; MS/Cabelas, Hoffman Estates event. 8 SARC members attending, 6:30AM last Sunday (May3). Worked well, no incidents. Minor confusion with walkers/runners. Vast crowd on street moved to sidewalk. 2 more scheduled events; Hoffman Est. 4th of July (Illinois Blvd just off Schaumburg road), 4th July 6AM breakfast like last year? Schaumburg Triathlon (July 16).

RHG, Anthony W.; nothing new, need articles, Cliff S: solar cycle 24 is dead, 9 month predictions were true, 310 year cycle, Maunder minimum (Galileo observations). MikeC: put board meeting Secretary's Report in RHG.

Repeater, Rob G.; repeater working again after Lightning arrestor removed, hardline up tower ladder, 220K ohm series resistor. Kent O. has ordered new lightning arrestor. Have gas tube inside. Had several antenna failures from lightning in past. Antenna/feedline is good. Kevin W will bring 74.5" coax jumper. Roger; should we disconnect repeater amp until replace arrestor? Relatively new amp. Kent will be gone, but Rob could replace if arrestor comes in next week. Gary B; Yaesu digital repeater came in (\$500), but no place available to install yet.

Construction project, Ted L.: on summer break with SARC-In-Park, but Gary B. will continue over summer with select dates, good response on SARC-all, need to keep clean, have coffee/donuts, unlock/lock cabinets, need to manage for keeping low profile. Got extra cabinets just in time. Would cost many \$\$\$ elsewhere. Gary/all; add 2nd or 4th Sat during summer? (4th if during SARC in Park and raining.). Old SARC cabinets near elevator (not wanted) – need to dispose so keep good standing with Schaumburg Tennis Club management. Gary will send out email.

VE testing, Steve K.; 10 people tested, 9 passed at April 2015 SRC testing

Social activities, Roger R.; Cruise line rep (~20minutes) at next SARC meeting. Kevin W; tuning duplexers

Nets, Rob G.; everyone needs to participate (Jim Brink not present)

Ham license class: all canceled due to little interest (Bruce Warrington not present)

Foxhunt, Steve K.; only one member interested, so Sat, 2April2105 foxhunt (after monthly Maxfield's breakfast) was canceled

Publicity: no report (Arnie K. not present)

SARC meeting presentation, Cliff S.; May 2015 – Kevin W, June 2015 Field Day activity instead, July 2015 – recap of FD. Paula Uscian will continue 6-6:30 DX presentations for next 6 months.

Emcom roundtable; 3rd Saturday

EBAY/Club sales of donated equipment, Gary; Old Heathkit oscilloscope is still at Tennis club cabinet (needs filter cap) – passed smoke test and works, WW2 receiver also still there.

Old business, New business, Leo R./others; Response from village on Permit Application for FD Water Tank location on Plum Grove Rd. No decision as of 6May2015, but Bill Clark has concerns, including possible OSHA violations, Leo R. has email from Bill Clark/Schaumburg village:

Scheduled work (re-painting) of Schaumburg Water tank will not happen for at least 12-18 months. At that time the relocation of antenna wire will be required. Also, does SARC club have

a copy of an MOU signed with Schaumburg Village for the Plum Grove tower similar to the Small Drive MOU? (Kent O. has MOU, circa 1993)

Other items:

- OSHA regulations: SARC needs to make sure Repeater transmission line feed behind Water tank ladder meets OSHA clearance rules. 7inches minimum behind ladder
- Provide design cost estimate to relocate antenna at EOC(?): Owner of Antenna (SARC?) needs to coordinate with cable relocation Contractor.
- Provide construction cost estimate (time and material): Estimated cost for this work is \$5000.
- 

SARC board email list, Leo R.; 5 board members + 4 officers should be on SARC board email list.

SARC Website, Leo R.: problem on website, no amendments, by-laws – need to be added. FD problem of allocating \$1K. SARC board spending limit is \$700? (Frank quoted). Need full SARC member vote for >\$700 expenditure(?). Need to get latest amendments listed on website. High priority to fix. Kent/Paula/Frank were investigating. Chris B. will look thru his box of records. Bob L.; in back issues of RHG? Rob G. ; RHG only goes back 2-3 years. In early 2000s minutes on by-laws might have been there. Rob G. will look.

Emcomm, Bob.L; last general meeting, antenna at EOC is on hold. How many members resident in Schaumburg? How come only 8 SARC members out of 60 are involved? Bill Clark is being asked difficult questions.

Further discussion on Plum Grove Water Tank ARRL Field Day (June 27-28, 2015) site and Permit application, all board members: it came to SARC board's attention that one SARC member vehemently opposed to alternate/proposed Schaumburg Rd/Firehouse location approached Bill Clark, Schaumburg Village – and voiced some concerns that may have jeopardized SARC's FD permit approval at both Schaumburg Rd and Plum Grove Water tank locations. That member brought up the specter of Field Day operation potentially having unsafe RF radiation exposure levels at Schaumburg Rd location. Unfortunately, the same issue can be argued for the Plum Grove Water Tank location as well. To the uninformed/untrained citizen, any level of RF energy can seem dangerous and unquantifiable, even if meets FCC max exposure levels. Since the Plum Grove Water Tank permit application had not been approved as of 6May2015, the board felt this member's unwise comments has greatly jeopardized SARC standing with Schaumburg village, and may cause the permit application to yet be rejected.

Approved by SARC board members and Submitted: 19May2015

Mike Clodfelter, SARC Secretary

## VE Testing Results

Results for May 2, 2015  
 Next Test June 6, 2015  
 Park District CRC; Sr. Center;  
 Sunshine Room.



| CLASS        | NUMBER TESTED | NEW LICENSE or UPGRADE |
|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Technician   | 6             | 5                      |
| General      | 3             | 4                      |
| Extra        | 1             | 1                      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>10</b>     | <b>9</b>               |

Note: There will be no testing the first weekend of July due to the holiday.

### New/Upgraded Licenses:

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

James Lorenz            KD9DVV  
 Brent Weiber            KD9DVW  
 Brandon Scoggins        KD9DVX  
 Alexandra Kleiner        KD9DVZ  
 Francis O'Reilly         KD9DWA

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

Carol Crockett            KD9DJS  
 Randal Hansen            KD9DLW  
 Robert Hazelrigg         N8JJS

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

Andres Rafferty            K9ABR

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

### Club Officers - 2015

|                   |                 |       |                  |                 |        |        |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|------------------|-----------------|--------|--------|
| <b>President:</b> | Leo Ribordy     | N9NBH | <b>Director:</b> | Rob Glowacki    | N9MVO  | (2016) |
| <b>Vice Pres.</b> | Steve Karson    | AC9EM | <b>Director:</b> | Anthony Willard | AB9YC  | (2016) |
| <b>Secretary:</b> | Mike Clodfelter | AC9CG | <b>Director:</b> | Kevin Willard   | KB9QVX | (2017) |
| <b>Treasurer:</b> | Chris Brewer    | AC9GN | <b>Director:</b> | Ted Lester      | AB9SZ  | (2017) |
|                   |                 |       | <b>Director:</b> | 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](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! Please make submissions by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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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