

The Radio Hill Gazette

January 2016

Table of Contents

From the Editor.....	2
Goooooooooooooooooooooooooooool!.....	3
DXCC in a weekend.....	4
AC9EM earns Triple Play Award from ARRL.....	7
2Dec2015 SARC board Meeting, Schaumburg Municipal Airport, Pilot Pete's.....	8
SARC club meeting at SRC (Schaumburg Recreational Center) on Dec 17, 2015.....	10
A Call for Programs.....	12
Trading post, things for sale or trade.....	13
Calendar and things to do.....	13
January.....	13
Looking ahead.....	13
VE Testing Results.....	14
SARC Email Reflector.....	14
Club Nets.....	15
Club Meetings.....	15
Club Officers – 2015.....	15
Club Committees.....	15
Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club.....	16

From the Editor

Welcome to another edition of the Radio Hill Gazette.

This is the first issue for 2016, and I hope we can give you information you need and inspire you to get on the air and make contacts.

This issue contains a summary of my “DXCC in a weekend” attempt. There are more than a few lessons learned, and plenty of stories to tell about my efforts.

Just one more thing, are you an Amateur Radio Operator or merely an Amateur Radio Licensee?

Anthony
Editor, RHG

Notice: I will step away as editor of the RHG following the December 2016 issue. Someone will need to step up and assume the responsibility for the newsletter. Let me know if you are interested.



Gooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

Anthony AB9YC

With the start of a new year comes a chance to set some goals.

What are your amateur radio goals for 2016?

Are you looking to make contact with all 50 states (WAS)? Or maybe on just one band or maybe using one mode?

Are you going to implement a new mode this year? CW? RTTY? PSK?

Will you work any new DX, maybe get your DXCC?

Will you participate in a contest or two?

Will you reconfigure your station, add any new equipment or perhaps improve your setup to better suit your operating?

Will you operate portable this year? Will you participate in any of the portable operating activities, like SOTA?

Whatever your amateur radio goals for 2016, I wish you the best of luck and hope you can master all the challenges you will face. If there is anything I can do to help, let me know. In the end, please do a write up and I'll put it into the RHG so others can share in your success. Don't be afraid to document a failure either, the best stories (and lessons!) come from failures, and you might help someone else avoid unnecessary setbacks attempting to pursue your same goal.

Anthony

AB9YC

The Radio Hill Gazette

DXCC in a weekend

Anthony AB9YC

Okay, here we are. I've mentioned it before that I've made several attempts to get a "DXCC in a weekend" which is to say, I worked 100 (or more) recognized DX entities during a weekend contest. Past efforts came up short, and not for lack of trying, but I was determined to make it happen this time. You hear about someone achieving the goal with regularity. The common thread is the presence of directional antennas, often an amplifier, and many times from coastal regions and not from the Black Hole here in the Midwest using simple wire antennas.

I set out to reach 100+ entities during the 48 hour CQ WW CW in November 2015. I run 100 watts to a 40/20/10 fan dipole at 20' and an inverted L for 80M, all from a suburban location in the Midwest.

To maximize my efforts, I decided to run in assisted mode, meaning I was plugged into the spotting networks and could see where various stations were at on the bands. I also kept an eye on the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) to keep tabs on band openings. I hit the airwaves hard right at the opening bell. The whole effort was about getting my entity count, so I concentrated on logging new countries. Since I also wanted a respectable score I also worked every station I could hear (and could hear me!) and kept a steady pace putting contacts into the log. Mind you, I wasn't getting as much pace as I desired as the opening hours are frenetic, but I kept at it.

The event begins at 00Z, which means it's already night over Europe, Africa, the eastern portions of the Americas, but daylight over the Pacific. Darkness means working EU should be no problem, so I began logging all the EU stations – and there were plenty! From the outset, every station is a score multiplier of some sort, so I just worked them all, not worrying about entities. I could work Cyprus with ease, but Greece couldn't hear me. My score climbed, as did my entity count.

I shut down to sleep after 5 hours of operating with 76 entities in the log. Early dawn was breaking over eastern EU, but I worked pretty much all I could hear from there. It would be some time before darkness would reach the Pacific. So I opted to get some rest and be on again before sunrise to catch the Pacific region with both of us in darkness.

Darkness should have meant Japan, Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand were workable on 80M and 40M. But, only HI could hear me and that was on 80M. There were several JA's, VK's and ZL's spotted that were faint but workable, but just couldn't hear me. Sunrise can be a fickle time where conditions are pretty dynamic even after daylight. I kept at it, but only managed one VK on 40M before I turned my attention east.

Daylight meant I should be on 20M and above. There were plenty of stations on both 20M and 15M for me to work, but I started on 20M. Conditions were fluttery, like polar path with auroral influences. It made some stations difficult to read, especially when the signal path followed the gray line. I stuck it out logging any station I could get through to, then moved to 15M to give that a go.

Conditions on 15M were much better, and there were plenty of stations, and since this was my first foray to this band, all stations were multipliers. Again, I just worked them all. Band conditions on the higher bands are usually quieter and you can usually work any station you can hear (as long as the QSB is favorable), which is what I did. My contact count was climbing, as was my entity count. At 14 hours into the event, I was still a ways from my goal with 85 entities. I was seeing new stations and entities pop up on the cluster, and moved quickly to see about getting them in the log.

I made brief scans on 10M, but the stations were few, and if I could hear more than a few, I would spend some time working any I could hear before retreating to 15M/20M.

My contest software shows tallies of which bands have the most multipliers and contacts, and I would guide my band choices for which band had the most new entities. I would hop to that band, work all the new ones first, then sweep the band a few times picking up any and all stations, effectively clearing my band map before moving to another band. It seemed that 20M and 15M were the strong contenders for the daytime so they kept me busy.

By early afternoon, darkness was setting on EU and Africa, but 20M and 15M were still filled with stations to work. I kept clearing my band map and getting as many stations in the log as I could. I was getting close to my goal, but there seems to be a bell curve of stations, where the majority of countries are represented, and easy pickings. The more unique stations that would get me to my goal are far fewer and care was needed to concentrate on getting them whenever conditions would allow. They often had a pileup, so getting them in the log required a bit of crafty operating. Notable contacts were with Antarctica, Suriname, Greenland, Iceland, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and a new one, Sao Tome & Principe (confirmed in LotW!); I missed out on Guam, Mariana Islands, Easter Island, Albania and Guatamala, I just could not get through before conditions deteriorated.

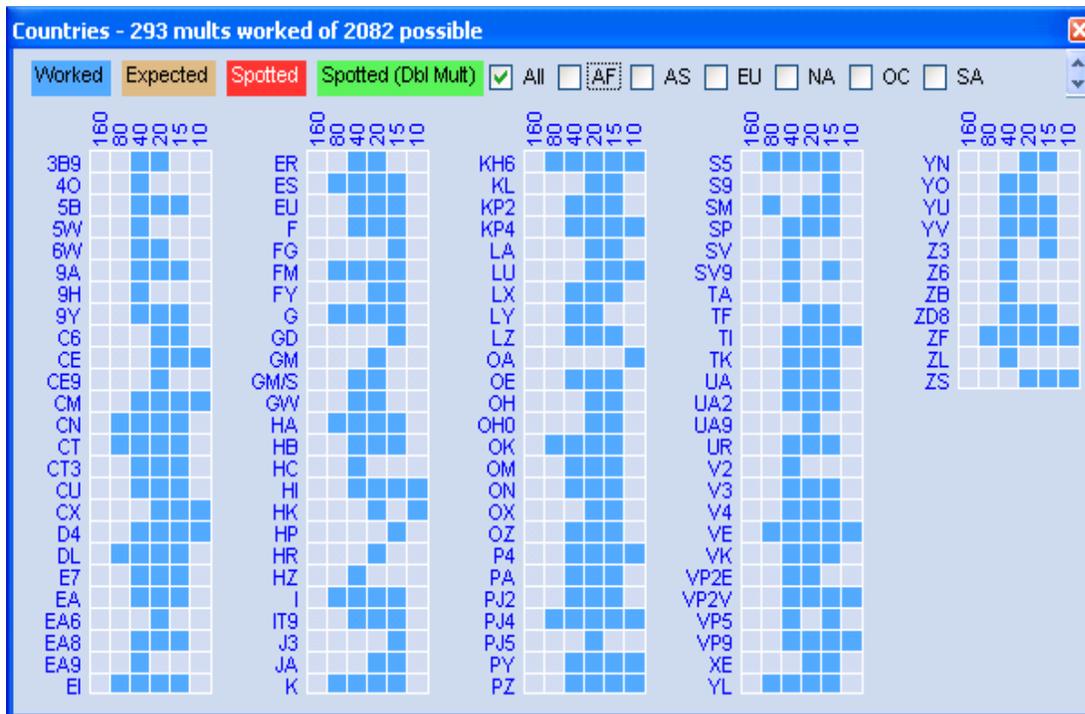


Illustration 1: Mults display

A contact with EA9UG, Ceuta & Melilla, at 23:21 of day one was entity number 100. It took 14 hours of operating and 418 contacts to reach 100 entities. I was hoping to reach my goal sooner, but did all I could. It was a joyous feeling when I verified my count – 100! With over 24 hours remaining in the contest, I went back to the air and kept logging. I put another 200+ entries in my log. My final count was 650 QSO's and 111 entities accounted for. Not bad from a suburban location with simple wire antennas.

I've set the bar for next year, and with some more chair time, perhaps I can reach 100 entities sooner. There are certainly more QSO's to be had, so maybe another goal for how many QSO's I expect. I'm thankful for the many stations I worked on multiple bands.

To me, this proves that the DXCC award is well within reach of anyone willing to actually try, and a 48 hour DX contest like the CQ WW is a prime opportunity that should not be missed.

See you on the air.

Anthony AB9YC

AC9EM earns Triple Play Award from ARRL

The October, 2014 RHG included a story about Steve Karson's efforts to acquire the WAS (Worked All States) award. New to contesting, AC9EM enjoyed working sideband contacts to achieve the award. Next, he focused on re-learning CW; a skill that he hadn't used since high school. With a practice keyer that he set up on the dining room table, we could hear him clicking away for a few hours after work each night.

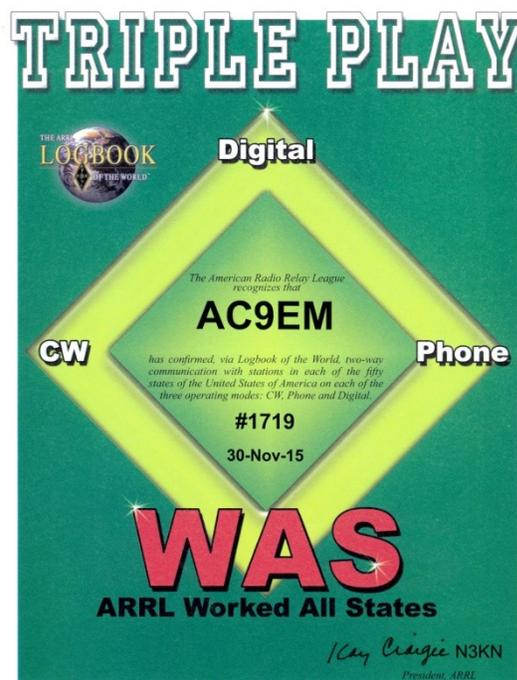
At that point, he was ready to begin logging all the states on CW. Most of the states were picked up quickly during various contests; but again – West Virginia, the Dakotas, and Maine proved elusive. Through contacting other hams in those states via email, he was able to obtain QSLs in those states too. He had earned WAS on CW!

Next, he turned to digital contesting. He purchased Ham Radio Deluxe software that would enable his radio to make the contacts through RTTY. At first, there was a problem with the software. Anthony, AB9YC and Mike, AC9CG, volunteered to help. Although they spent a few hours discussing options, nothing worked correctly until Steve found a customer service agent at the software company who could help him fix the problem. Once that was fixed, Steve was on his radio and laptop in the ham shack at 4am and 9pm (at all hours) making RTTY contacts. Chirping, ringing, buzzing sounds emerged from the ham shack. Steve's Dad, hearing this over the phone one afternoon, asked me, "How can you stand all that noise?"

Again, West Virginia and the Dakotas proved to be elusive. It became necessary to obtain those digital contacts through PSK31. Within a few months, Steve had once again earned a "major award". We all watched for the large, white ARRL envelope which just arrived a few days ago.

We are proud of him! He had a lot of fun using SSB, CW, and Digital to earn all 50 states!

Christine, KD9ESD



2Dec2015 SARC board Meeting, Schaumburg Municipal Airport, Pilot Pete's

Steve K. presiding

Attendees: Anthony Willard (AB9YC), Gary Bernstein (N9VU), Leo Ribordy (N9NBH), Cliff Sowka (K9QD), Roger Ryan (W9RDR), Ted Lester (AB9SZ), Mel (W9FRT), Russ (KC9NUV), Chris Brewer (AC9GN), Mike Clodfelter (AC9CG), Steve Karson (AC9EM)

Treasurer's report, Chris B.: gave report and approved (Oct 1, 2015 thru Oct 31, 2015)

Beginning balance: \$3084.25

Income (dues and other): \$339.84

Expenses : \$45.00 (Data line)

Balance: \$3379.09

Bylaws (Anthony W. and all): "SARC officers, board of directors must be active, on-air members".

Secretary's report, Mike C.: Refer to Dec 2015 RHG for Nov 2015 board meeting notes. Motion made and passed to accept.

Membership report, Chris B.: 72 paid members.

Public service, Rob G.: not present

President's report, Leo R.: none x

RHG, Anthony W.: nothing to report, need more contributions. Dec 2015 didn't have any articles. Anthony is resigning RHG at end of Dec 2016 (year from now).

Repeater, Leo R.: Seems to be working

Construction project, Ted L.: Same as usual; wonderful. Steve K.: do we have it renewed for next year? Cliff: no, don't need to. Roger R.: we should build up history of using Schaumburg Tennis court basement. Concept of "adverse possession" after 7 year occupation. Cliff: Arnie was able to get Village of Schaumburg resolution on SARC using facilities. Need to institutionalize/document presence in basement. Anthony: need to have plan, but not make waves. Don't make the SARC presence adverse. Put equipment in one cabinet – special combination and other supplies in other cabinets. Motion made, seconded, and passed to change combination now and on regular basis.

VE testing, Steve K.: Tom is helping (not SARC member). Next testing on Dec 5, 2015.

Proposed Field Day survey and possible changes to FD, Cliff, Frank, Anthony, others :

Steve K: Dirk's survey says that Construction project is the most favorite SARC activity.

Social activities, Roger R.: New Idea: Paintball place where Santa's Village used to be (near IL-72, and IL-25), owned by Roger's neighbor. Roger is getting brochures, info. Board need to determine if viable. Ted L.: send out RSVP to SARC all? Steve K: propose at next SARC meeting 17Dec2015. Need to buy/rent equipment. Estimated cost: \$35.

Otherwise, 3rd Thursday of Jan 2016 at Buona Beef for Christmas party

Net control, Leo:

Tech Net, Leo: Matt has been busy for work. Leo has conflict on some Tuesdays. Mel: used to go over HAM license questions one-at-a-time. Anthony's antenna modeling classes were compelling. Cliff: publish possible topics. Gary and Mel: make announcement in SARC-ALL about Tech-net. Also SARC board meeting reminders.

Tech education: Janek wants to have tech class. Leo R.: SARC has procedure. Mel: if at SRC forget it due to high cost.

Foxhunt, Steve K.: not present

Publicity, Steve K.: need chairman.

Emcomm, Leo R.: cabinet access need to be shared. Have to call (Mon-Fri) and set up an appointment with admin who will check schedule and get back to SARC requestor.

Anthony W.:

EBAY/Club sales of donated equipment, Gary: Sold TS-520 on Nov 25, 2015 on Ebay. No bad feedback. Drake station still available. Rob G. has some stuff? Leo R: 3-5 radios in the pipeline to sell. Gary: need special mic for Drake (1/4 inch phone plug?). There are collectors for Drake: collectable.

Old business, Leo R./others; Roger: Schaumburg tennis court file cabinets need new combinations. Some items have come up missing. Steve K.: Cliff S.: Kent says we should get tuned cavity duplexer, about \$800-\$1000. Need if Water tank painting puts repeater out of commission. Decibel Products is brand name. Board should authorize Kent to buy duplexer when he sees one. (We can trust him to be frugal.)

New business, Leo R.: 192 people on SARC-All now. Should purge the roll and start over. SARC-Board has 22 email addresses. Anthony W: have to coordinate with Bruce Warrington. Warning or no warning? Motion to purge to only paid members. Have people come back to SARC website to re-sign. Give warning first before purging. ("By Jan 1, 2016, SARC-ALL will be restricted to paid members.") Motion made and seconded to accept: Notice to be put out in Dec 2015.

Recurring calendar, Leo R.:

Possible Winter FD event, Cliff/Roger: Bob Langsfeld says SARC can use village trailer (heated) for event. Leo: propose SARC in PARK Winter event for 2-3 hours? Steve K: bring up at next Club meeting 17Dec2015. Rob has vertical.

SARC Website, Leo R.: not covered

Program chair, Cliff: Dirk S. will give results of FD Survey. Need Feb 2016 program.

Submitted: Dec 21, 2015

Mike Clodfelter, SARC Secretary

SARC club meeting at SRC (Schaumburg Recreational Center) on Dec 17, 2015

Leo Ribordy, President presiding

31 people in attendance. There was no question of the evening. Sign-up sheets were passed around (1) if interested Winter field day – Jan 23(Sat), and (2) sign-ups for June 2016 Field day

Treasurer's report, Chris B.: Mike C. read report (Nov 1, 2015 thru Nov 30, 2015). Treasurer's report approved by motion and seconded.

Beginning balance:	\$3,084.25	
Income:	\$339.84	(dues)
Expense:	\$45.00	(data line=\$45)
Ending balance:	\$3,379.09	

Membership, Chris Brewer (AC9GN): 72 paid members as of report tonight, 17Dec2015

Secretary's Report, Mike Clodfelter (AC9CG): Cited report in RHG Dec 2015 edition. Motion made, seconded and Report approved by SARC members.

Public Service, Steve Karson(AC9EM):

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

Repeater, Kent Ochs (W9KAO): Seems to be working

Construction Project, Ted Lester (AB9SZ): Is going well. Many projects. Next construction project is on Sat, Dec 26, 2015.

VE Testing, Steve Karson (AC9EM): 1 person from Waukegon, passed Technician test

Social, Roger Ryan (W9RDR) : Christmas Party on 3rd Thursday of Jan 2016 (7PM, Jan 21st) at Buona Beef. Close to club members, free parking, no tips required, free drinks for seniors. Those wanting to do \$10 grab bag gift can do so – “if you bring a gift, you can pick one”.

Nets, Jim Brink (KC9UPA): Cancelled for Dec 24, 2015. Otherwise, held every 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursday of month (Matt does 4th Thurs.)

Education: Technician class, but need ad hoc classroom location. SRC books up fast.

Foxhunt: Steve (AC9EM): done for season

Publicity: nothing to report

Programs, Cliff Sowka (K9QD): Dirk will give summary of FD survey, Bob Langsfeld will give EMCOMM training update

Emcom, Bob Langsfeld (WB9TZC) 9AM to 11AM this Sat, Dec 26, Hoffman Estates Police Dept.

Recurring calender: Field day 2016, Water tank painting timeframe still unknown. Steve K passed around FD2016 Survey – who want to volunteer and participate (SSB, VHF, CW, etc).

Winter FD Jan 21, 2015 – 2 hours, generators, SSB station, Steve K has asked to reserve Schaumburg Recreational Center (normal SARC meeting location) room

File annual SARC corporate report (Chris B. took action item), Cliff had problems with filing last time – 501C3

Alternate FD site: Schaumburg village, Bill Clark update. Cliff and Leo(?) attended on water tank painting.

Ebay sales, Leo () and others: In pipeline: TR-7, TR-4 is for sale, Kenwood. First put in RHG, then EBAY

Had Elections for SARC 2016 Was at Nov meeting and results announced. However, Bill Smead Award (outstanding contributor to Construction Project) and SARC Member of Year for 2015 award will be announced at Jan 2016 Christmas party.

Question to an ELMER – attendee asking for reliable car shop to install radio. Ken: Master Hitch in Palatine, Rt. 14. Bob L.: Need wires run thru car chassis. Ted L.: for safety put fuse link right at battery.

Old business: Cliff: need duplexer if temporarily leave Water tank. We should give Kent authorization to buy used duplexer. Bob L.: Existing Fusion radio has home at Emcomm. Kent O. doesn't recommend buying any more Fusion radios (50W) due to narrow temp limits. Leo asking why use 2 transmitter freq. Should we split VHF and UHF – abandon UHF. Cliff: made a motion to authorize funds for Duplexer. Seconded. Motion made to recommend to SARC board; voted and passed unanimously.

New business: none

Held Raffle for Geneva IL Hamfest Jan 2015: 2 tickets worth \$20. Made \$31 profit, and Jim Campbell won the raffle

SARC meeting Program: Dirk Smith gave results of FD survey taken at 19Nov2015 SARC club meeting

Be respectful, have integrity, have transparency, be actively listening, be understanding, be inclusive,

Most liked: Construction Project, Camraderie, SARC in Park, Mentoring, FD.

Need to change: Limit speaking time, others.

Complete presentation can be obtained from Dirk.

Bob Langsfeld: Emcomm emergency coordinator for Hoffman Estates. Discussion on GO-Kits. Important to "Grab and Go". Complete presentation can be requested from Bob.

Submitted: Dec 21, 2015

Mike Clodfelter, SARC secretary

A Call for Programs

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 got absolutely nothing!”

Calendar and things to do

January

Breakfast at Maxfields	2
ARRL RTTY Roundup	2-3
Board of directors meeting	6
NAQP CW	10
EmComm Roundtable	16
NAQP SSB	16
Holiday Party	21

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

VE Testing Results

Results for December 5, 2015
 Next Test January 2, 2016
 Park District CRC; Sr. Center;
 Sunshine Room.

CLASS	NUMBER TESTED	NEW LICENSE or UPGRADE
Technician	1	1
General	0	0
Extra	0	0
Total	1	1



New/Upgraded Licenses:

****Technician****

Leotis Dunn KD9FDL

****Amateur Extra****

****General****

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

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:	Steve Karson	AC9EM	Director:	Anthony Willard	AB9YC	(2016)
Vice Pres.	Russ Shcmidt	KC9NUV	Director:	Rob Glowacki	N9MVO	(2016)
Secretary:	Cliff Sowka	K9QD	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	Dirk Smith K9DFS
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

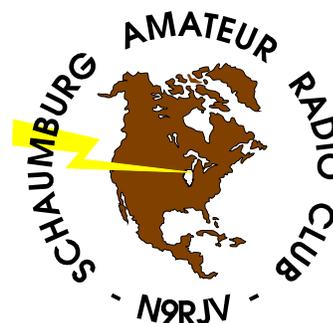
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Visit the SARC Home Page at <http://n9rjv.org>



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