



The Radio Hill Gazette

A publication of the Schaumburg Ham Radio Club (SARC)
March 2017

From the Editor	2
From the President	2
Construction Project.....	3
Miscellaneous activities / updates.....	3
HF Net.....	3
440 Repeater updates.....	3
Field Day Activites for 2017	3
Satellite Working Group	3
Public Service	3
Net Check-ins.....	4
VE Testing Results.....	5
Cheap Toys, for those who like to build kits	6
SARC March Club Notes	7
A Call for Programs.....	10
SARC Board of Directors Meeting March 1 st	11



From the Editor

Hello to all, in this month's issue of RHG, we have an article from Dave Sims, K9KBM, on an interesting little pocket signal generator kit that he built. On another note, during the March club meeting we had a really interesting and informative presentation by Joel Gray, N9LQ, on working satellites, specifically satellite SO-50. He brought in his entire setup with a home built 2m and 440 antenna mounted on a tripod with a low cost HT. His tips on how to effectively work in the dark, and how the exchange works during a QSO was excellent. I hope maybe he'll write up an article for the RHG in the future.

Also to inform everyone that missed the club meeting, Mel Luxenberg, W9FRT, resigned as president for family needs. I'd like to thank him for trying to hold this post with all the responsibilities he has at home. I believe the Board of Directors will be electing a replacement president in the near future.

And finally it's with great sadness to report that Ken Hopkins, WA9WCP, is a silent key. He passed on Friday March 17th, 2017. I didn't know Ken personally since I'm so new to SARC, but I know he was well respected by the club members for all the years he helped the club with the RHG newsletter. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and family through this difficult time. Please visit the SARC google discussion group for any updates regarding this.

Mike K9KQX

From the President

Nothing to report



Construction Project

Gary N9VU: Potential for extending the season beyond our normal April closure for the season. Will communicate through SAR-ALL if there is enough interest.

Next Meeting as posted on the N9RJV.org website is April 8th and April 22 at the Schaumburg Tennis court, 1416 Payne Rd, Schaumburg, IL at 8am

Miscellaneous activities / updates

HF Net - Dirk, K9DFS, has been working to organize an HF net on possibly the 10M band, or possibly 40M band to help newer hams gain experience on HF using a variety of modes, like Digital, CW, using Netlogger, and how to handle pile ups during contests. Experiments in determining the viability of doing this on various bands and antennas has occurred between club members to see what does and doesn't work. Currently nets are Wednesday nights at 8am. For more information visit the [SARC Google group](#) for updates.

440 Repeater updates - The recent reports of the 440 repeater having poor coverage are led Kent and Leo to investigate the issue this past month. They learned that the feed line is extremely lossy, and with 20w output, only 3 watts is making it to the antenna. They are looking to install hardline, just need to source connectors to do the job issue.

Field Day Activites for 2017 - Matt AC9IG reported preliminary Field Day meeting has occurred. Decision was made to eliminate our VHF tent for this year. Mike Sorensen K9KQX will be captain for GOTA. SSB and CW captain assignments are open at the moment. Food captain required. Matt will publish his organizational meeting minutes to SAR-ALL and request sign-ups. Food costs \$139.00 last year according to our records.

Satellite Working Group - Charles Fregeau(N5HSR) is working to start a Satellite interest group in our club to gain knowledge and skills in working amateur satellites. All classes of hams are welcome to participate in this group. Current charter members of this group are N5HSR, N9LQ, AC9PH, AC9CV, AC9GN, K9DFS. We are hoping to add this to our field day activities to increase overall points, plus just learning to work these Sats could be a very exciting, like working the International Space station APRS node. In time this might even bridge over to Earth moon Earth communications. Anyone interested in this should reach out to Charles on the [SARC Google group](#) for future updates.

Public Service - Rob N9MVO 2017 MS Walk Sunday, May 7th Boomer Baseball Field We have been asked to join again in support of the MS Walk, this year at the Schaumburg Baseball stadium on Sunday May 7th. Our setup will begin at 7:30 AM. The participants start walking at 9:00 AM. In previous years, the event was completed before 11:00 AM. The new route, around the west parking lot of the baseball



stadium will need a few people for communicating need of assistance for participants who have trouble making the whole route. There will be several others needed in the south parking lot to assist participants getting to the start.

Net Check-ins_ – Leo Ribordy N9NBH

March 9th 2017

Thank you to the following hams for checking into the net this evening.

N9NBH	Leo
K9DFS	Dirk
W9FRT	Mel
N5HSR	Charles
N9VU	Gary
WQ9M	Mark
W9KAO	Kent
AC9EM	Steve
W9RDR	Roger
K9KQX	Mike
N9MVO	Rob
W9RKK	Bob

The questions for the evening were:

Do you own an antenna analyzer and what brand?
What type of antenna's did you use it on?

73 N9NBH
Leo Ribordy



VE Testing Results

NEXT EXAM: Mar 4th at Schaumburg Park District CRC;

Results for March 4th. 2017, test session:

CLASS	NUMBER TESTED	NEW LICENSE or UPGRADE
Technician	6	5
General	4	4
Extra	1	0
Total:	11	9

NEW LICENSES:

****TECHNICIAN****

Roelalfo Vargas Jr	KD9ICP
Christian De Kok	KD9ICR
Priscilla A Miller	KD9ICS
Peter Radakovic	KD9ICT
Maximilian A Schmelzer	KD9ICU

****GENERAL ****

Paul A Sheldon	KD9ICO
Timothy B Morriss	KD9ICQ
Raymond V Kazmierczak	KC9OAN
David M Carlson	KD(GOF)

****EXTRA****

All of us at SARC would like to congratulate all those that received or upgraded their license this month, and we welcome you to the amateur radio community. Hope to hear you on the air. Should you have any questions, come join SARC at our regular monthly meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month or stop in at one of the Construction Meetings. Check the [SARC website](#) for times and locations.

Cheap Toys, for those who like to build kits

By Dave Sims K9KBM

Having a need for a signal generator to finish up an audio project I consulted my favorite cheap electronics source Banggood.com. And there it was a 1Hz to 1Mhz signal generator kit for \$10.23 with shipping. For those not familiar with Banggood it is a catalog of all sorts of goods from China and many of the goods are available from a US warehouse meaning the wait can be as short as a week. Their site does have a tab for ELECTRONICS and if you search Amateur Radio you will find all kinds of stuff from batteries to QRP transceivers, FOR CHEAP.

What the XR2206 generator will do: (on 9V battery)

Square wave with 5V output fixed.

Triangle variable output to 4.4V above which it starts to distort

Sine variable to 3.6V until distortion.

Controls:

The first knob is for amplitude the second for fine frequency adjust and the third for course frequency adjust.

Jumper switch #1 controls 5 frequency steps from 1Hz to 1 MHz.

Jumper switch #2 allows selection of triangle or sine output.

The laser cut plastic case was well done and the control functions were etched into the plastic.

Connections:

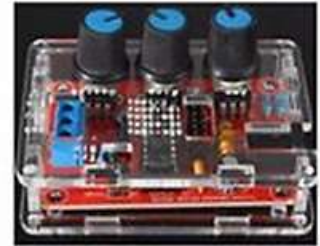
The power connection is a standard female jack of the type a mating wall wart would fit. The output is via a three screw terminal strip.

Performance:

When hooked to a high end scope it was stable and easy to tune. A good 9V battery seemed to be adequate and didn't show much loss after ½ hour.

Building tips for the uninitiated.

This kit definitely requires a fine tip soldering iron due to the small size of the solder pads. The resistor color codes are difficult to read so I strongly recommend checking with an Ohm meter. As always, I used the old Heath kit tip of putting the components into the cells of a piece of corrugated cardboard and identifying the values on the cardboard. Total build time is less than an hour.





SARC March Club Notes

Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting Mar 16, 2017

Matt Walsh AC9IG Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Attendees:

Dirk Smith	K9DFS	Matt Walsh	AC9IG	Cliff Sowka	K9QD
Gary Bernstein	N9VU	Leo Ribordy	N9NBH	D.J. Traxler	WA9UBR
Chris Brewer	AC9GN	Charles Fregeau	N5HSR	Geoff Stevens	KA9QGH
Roger Ryan	W9RDR	Robert Kocourek	W9RKK	Mike Sorensen	K9KQX
Wake Wacaser	AF9I	Brad Mayer	KC9WZH	Rob Glowacki	N9MVO
Joel Gray	N9LQ	Burt Schultz	AB9CV	Frank Giampa	N9QPD
Rick Cook	KC9PLO	Don Smith	K9UD	Mark Scriven	WQ9M

Treasurer's report: Chris Brewer AC9GN reports: Beginning balance for the month was \$4,603.76. Income was \$487.00. Expense was \$164.00 of which \$50 was for our data-line and \$48.60 eBay and PayPal fees. Ending balance is \$4,926.16. Paid membership is currently 82.

President's Report: Matt AC9IG reports that Mel Luxenberg W9FRT has resigned his post due to family medical situation. Board of Directors will be electing a new President during the April Board meeting.

SARC Repeater: Kent W9KAO Not Present. No report.

Fusion @ Hospital site: Machine moved out of the Hoffman Estates Police Station, newly tuned and installed duplexer and placed back on the air at the permanent hospital site. Cable measurements indicate only 3W being delivered at the antenna. Hard Line installation is planned once new connectors are procured.

Public Service Rob N9MVO reports: The first Public Service Event of 2017 May 7th.

We have been asked to join again in support of the MS Walk, this year at the Schaumburg Baseball stadium on Sunday May 7th. Our setup will begin at 7:30 AM. The participants start walking at 9:00 AM. In previous years, the event was completed before 11:00 AM. The new route, around the west parking lot of the baseball stadium will need a few people for communicating need of assistance for participants who have trouble making the whole route. There will be several others needed in the south parking lot to assist participants getting to the start.

We may be able to park near our operating locations, so it may not be necessary to do a lot of walking. A folding chair might be handy. The maximum radio distance will be less than a mile, so a 5W HT with a rubber duck antenna should be sufficient.



If you haven't worked a Public Service Event before, this will be a great way to learn what they are about - Serving the public. If you have been on other PS Events, you know it will be enjoyable.

If you've got a new radio, get the SARC - EMCOMM frequencies programmed into it, so you can easily support this and other Public Service Events coming up this year.

If you can help us on this event, please reply to this message with your name and call sign and say you are coming, so I can get your information to the MS Society.

I currently have the following people signed up:

Bill Davies K9WKD Matt Walsh AC9IG Bob Benwitz N9JAX
Cliff Sowka K9QD Jim Campbell KB9RGU Leo Ribordy N9NBH
Phil McBride WB9C

Secretary's Report: Cliff Sowka K9QD Meeting Minutes approved as submitted.

RHG: Ken Hopkins Not Present. Thanks to Mike Sorensen K9KQX for taking the lead on fulfilling the publication schedule. Needs articles for the RHG. Ken's wife Rebecca KA9EFE updated Burt AB9CV he is back home and recovering. Rebecca requests we suspend any visits for the moment.

Construction Project: Gary N9VU: Potential for extending the season beyond our normal April closure for the season. Will communicate through SAR-ALL if there is enough interest.

VE Testing: Dirk Smith K9DFS reports 10 students with 9 passing. All students were informed of SARC and the activities in which we partake.

Social: Roger Ryan W9RDR No events planned for the immediate future. Looking at potential for raw dead fish restaurant in Barrington could become Pilot Pete's replacement. Location ambiance and theme is Asian. Cost is mid \$30s.

Nets: Matt AC9IG will take charge of the Nets. Seeing about 12 or so for the past few nets. Matt is keeping a list of attendees to award randomly-drawn \$25 ARRL gift certificates during Field Day.

Education: Ham Radio Class: Leo N9NBH reports plans for a fall TECHNICIAN Class. He will begin soliciting volunteer instructors and believes about 5 will suffice.

EMCOMM: Bob Langsfeld WB9TZC. Not Present. EMCOMM Roundtable scheduled for this coming Saturday at the Hoffman Estates Police Station.

Construction Project: Gary N9VU: Traditionally ends in April but will survey membership to determine if extended meetings would be desirable. Potential for extending the season. Will communicate through SARC-ALL if there is enough interest.



Programs: Cliff Sowka K9QD: Program tonight was Joel N9LQ Gray's Satellite operation demonstration. Bob Langsfeld N9TZC will present EMCOMM updates at the April meeting.

Ebay Sales: Gary N9VU reports there are no items currently planned for sale.

Publicity: No Report.

Recurring Calendar: Chris AC9GN is checking PO Box weekly.

Old business: None.

New business: Dirk K9DFS is experimenting with HF NET contacts. Discussed 40M, 80M, 10M SB and appears digital is not handicapped by propagation shortcomings for evening-hours near-field HF. Will continue to host Wednesday night HF efforts and work with members to brainstorm antenna ideas during upcoming Construction Project meetings.

Mel W9FRT observes chatter the ARRL is soliciting comments on a new entry-level Ham License. Purpose seems to be expanding the hobby to younger people in effort to sustain population.

Matt W9FRT preparing Field Day organizational meeting sometime in early March. An announcement will be posted on SARC-ALL.

Charles N5HSR wants to make plans for Satellite contacts during this year's Field Day. Will be working on scheduling an informal meeting at his home.

New Business: Mel has resigned his role as President. The BOD will be voting his replacement at the April Meeting.

Dirk proposes member's email/phone be published to the club. Dirk moves we publish membership list containing only limited contact information to prevent unwanted spam with a time limit for opting out. Rob seconded. So moved.

Move to adjourn 7:34PM. So moved.

Submitted: March 17, 2017 Cliff Sowka Secretary



A Call for Programs

Some 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



SARC Board of Directors Meeting March 1st

Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting March 1, 2017

Kent Ochs W9KAO Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Attendees:

Dirk Smith	K9DFS	Matt Walsh	AC9IG	Ted Lester	AB9SZ
Kevin Willard	KB9QVX	Gary Bernstein	N9VU	Leo Ribordy	N9NBH
Kent Ochs	W9KAO	Dave Hug	KD9CVI	Roger Ryan	W9RDR
Cliff Sowka	K9QD	Frank Giampa	N9QPD		

Treasurer's report: Chris Brewer (not present) AC9GN reports: Beginning balance for the month was \$4,603.76. Income was \$487.00. Expense was \$164.00 of which \$50 was for our data-line and \$48.60 eBay and PayPal fees. Ending balance is \$4,926.16. Paid membership is currently 82. Ted moves and Gary seconds. Passed.

President's Report: Mel Luxenberg W9FRT not present.

SARC Repeater: Kent W9KAO reports our K9IHK machine is working. Purchased USB drive to store sound files. Replaced the failed DSL modem. New software for the repeater has been released and hopefully will heal the mocking-mode feedback that only the current operator hears. Expected to be a non-trivial reload effort. We suffered two lock-ups and seem to coincide with Echolink somehow.

Fusion @ Hospital site: Machine moved out of the Hoffman Estates Police Station, newly tuned and installed duplexer and placed back on the air at the permanent hospital site. Kent W9KAO measured extreme power losses in both cable runs: 19W input with 3W being delivered at the antenna. Spongy coax needs to be replaced. FSJ4 coax in hand, just need N-connectors and another lightning arrester to upgrade the PL-259s to N.

Public Service Rob N9MVO no report.

Secretary's Report: Cliff Sowka K9QD Meeting Minutes approved as submitted. Matt moved and Dirk seconded. Passed.

RHG: Ken Hopkins WA9WCP continues his recovery while Mike Sorensen K9KQX has taken the editor's role on temporary assignment. Needs articles for the RHG.

Membership: Bob Benowitz not present.

Construction Project: Gary N9VU: Table capacity increased to handle the larger gatherings. Now have two rows and will require two power drops. Rob fixed the light fixture. Jim Scott W9KV has donated several parts cabinets containing myriad electronic components and some of these were placed into the storage cabinets with several more resting on top of



the smaller end-cabinet until we can reorganize the storage capacity. Letter acknowledging Jim's donation has been mailed.

VE Testing: Dirk Smith K9DFS reports testing will occur next Saturday March 4th.

Social: Roger Ryan W9RDR No events planned for the immediate future.

Nets: Matt AC9IG reports the new script seems to be working well. Tech Net had four participants this past week, and enjoyed double that amount the week earlier.

Education: Ham Radio Class: Leo N9NBH reports difficulty in contacting library authority to schedule a new TECHNICIAN Class for the fall of 2017.

EMCOMM: Bob Langsfeld WB9TZC Not Present. EMMCOMM Roundtable scheduled for the third Saturday morning of each month at the Hoffman Estates Police Station.

Programs: Cliff Sowka K9QD: Next two programs (March and April) will be Satellite Communication hosted by Joel Gray, N9LQ, and Bob Langsfeld WB9TZC will provide EMMCOMM program. Specific month designated for each of these two presentations hasn't been confirmed.

Ebay Sales: Gary N9VU has all items sold. One item sold to a club member appears to be not working. Next step is to confirm/repair; refund if inoperative.

Publicity: No Report.

Field Day: Matt AC9IG reported preliminary Field Day meeting has occurred. Decision was made to eliminate our VHF tent for this year. Mike Sorensen K9KQX will be captain for GOTA. SSB and CW captain assignments are open at the moment. Food captain required. Matt will publish his organizational meeting minutes to SARC-ALL and request sign-ups. Food costs \$139.00 last year according to our records.

Recurring Calendar: Chris AC9GN is checking PO Box weekly.

Old business: None.

New business: Cliff K9QD reports new donation of parts cabinets from Jim Scott W9KV and placed them in the storage cabinets. Also sent *thank you* note to allow him documentation in preparing his charitable donation reporting. Dirk K9DFS reported the experimental 10M net has been fun with a surprise Indiana/Michigan check-ins.

Website: Dirk K9DFS reports new efforts on upgrading our website are Work in Progress.

Proposed Budget for 2017: Kent W9KAO provides supplemental data below. Kevin KB9QVX moved to approve, Ted AB9SZ seconded. So moved.

Adjourn 9:00 PM.



Submitted: March 2, 2017 Cliff Sowka Secretary