

THE RADIO HILL GAZETTE

Volume XXXII Issue II

February 2007

Celebrating Our 32nd Year in Publication

Club Calendar of Events



February 2007

Thu	1	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz
Sat	3	8:00 AM	Official Saturday Morning Breakfast – Maxfields
Sat	3	9:00 AM	VE Testing Session - CRC
Thu	8	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz
Sat	10	8:00 AM	Construction Projects @ STP
Thu	15	7:00 PM	Monthly Club Meeting - CRC
Thu	22	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz
Sat	24	8:00 AM	Construction Projects @ STP
Wed	28	7:00 PM	Board of Directors meeting – Schaumburg Airport



March 2007

Thu	1	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz
Sat	3	8:00 AM	Official Saturday Morning Breakfast – Maxfields
Sat	3	9:00 AM	VE Testing Session - CRC
Thu	8	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz
Sat	10	8:00 AM	Construction Projects @ STP
Thu	15	7:00 PM	Monthly Club Meeting - CRC
Thu	22	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz
Sat	24	8:00 AM	Construction Projects @ STP
Wed	28	7:00 PM	Board of Directors meeting – Schaumburg Airport

CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE SCHAUMBURG RECREATION CENTER ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SPRINGINSGUTH AND BODE ROADS. OUR NETS ARE HELD EVERY THURSDAY (except Meeting nights) AT 9PM ON THE K9IHK REPEATER; 145.23 MHz.-600 kHz WITH 107.2 Hz PL

Presidential Deep Thoughts by Kent Ochs

I started last year on the theme; ask not what your club can do for you--ask what you can do for your club. I can honestly say that the SARC Membership took up that challenge in the following ways:

Club members stepped up to fill a number of open Board, Officer, and Chairmanship positions.

Club members provided service to the community and one of our members was honored by his employer for his community service with a very generous donation to the Club.

The Club had one of the best Field Day in its history, even without a Chairman☺

I would like to thank the following Club members, who provided service to the club by organizing and running the following club activities over the last year:

Community Service (Andy Sharkey, K9AND – Dave Down, N9DAV)
Fox Hunting (Bruce Widenhoefer – KB9JEJ)
Construction Projects (Bill Smead - K9IIM)
Summer Picnic/Holiday Party (Kim Bettasso)
Publishing/Mailing RHG (Mark Deelsnyder – KB9VHA)
Fund Raising (Roy Merkley – KC9BPI and various other members)
EMCOMM/Repeater (Bill Smead, K9IIM – Bill Zapel, N9WPD)
Net Control/RHG Printing (Rob Glowacki – N9MVO)
Membership (Jim Campbell – KB9RGU)
VE Test/EBay Sales (Larry Carr – NO9A)
Webmaster (Bruce Warrington – N9EHA)

It has been good to see to new members joining the club. Club Meetings and Weekly Nets are often our first opportunity to impress and attract prospective new

members. Over the last year, I have noticed a decrease in both Club Meeting attendance and Weekly Net participation. I worry that we may be missing an opportunity to attract new members, not to mention retain existing members.

To that end, this year, I challenge the members of SARC to assist me in making the improvement necessary to increase Meeting attendance and Weekly Net participation. I welcome any suggestions you may have or assistance you can provide to make improvements in these two areas.

Based on the feedback I have received to date, the following feedback and suggestions have been received:

Club meeting presentations have been lacking and need to be publicized.

The business portion of the meeting needs to be shorter.

The RHG needs to be mailed in a timelier manner.

More Field Trips/Social Activities

Nets should be more than just a check-in

Concerning meeting presentations, Adrian Russell, KB9YAB, has stepped forward to fill the Program Chairmanship. I'm sure, that with our assistance, Adrian will work hard to schedule a number of interesting presentations in the next year. I will work to shorten the business portion of the Club meetings and your Club Officers and Board Members will work to resolve the RHG delivery problems. I am sure our Social Activity Chairman, Kim Bettasso, and Net Control Chairman, Rob Glowacki, will entertain any suggestions Club members have concerning Field Trips, Social Activities, and Weekly Nets.

With your assistance, I am sure we can make the improvements necessary to maintain SARC as one of the best Amateur Radio organizations in Chicago.

73's

Kent Ochs
W9KAO

VHF Contesting Part 1

So you have a VHF plus radio what else can you do with it besides working a repeater or doing emcom? Try a VHF contest. Even with an FM only rig you can still participate in a contest. What you need is an outdoor antenna and maybe a brick amplifier if you only have an HT. For an antenna if all you have is an omni directional well that will do and you can still make quite a few contacts but if you would like to make a few more contacts use something like a three element beam used

vertically when using FM. There are plenty of resources to build your own or you can purchase a commercially made one. If you would like to build your own I recommend this one <http://www.wa5vjb.com/yagi-pdf/cheapyagi.pdf> I've built it for very cheap and it works well on 2M and 70cm. Now you have your antenna you will need a radio with a few more watts than your HT, find an amplifier or radio with at least 50W or more if your going to use your omni directional antenna. Okay you have your antenna, radio and amp where are the contests? Check QST, CQ magazine, and web there are plenty out there.

Once you have found a date for a contest what frequencies do you use? Well the most common FM 2M frequencies are all the 2M calling frequencies except 146.52. On 70cm and above you can use all the calling frequencies, even 446.0. So there are two strategies you can use in a contest the first is finding a clear frequency and calling CQ Contest CQ Contest this is <call> <call> over. Wait about ten seconds and call again, keep your ears open for weak signals too. The second method is called "hunt and pounce" where you keep changing frequencies looking for someone else calling CQ Contest. This works well if you are running lower power and the first method is not working for you because stations may not be able to hear you or are just passing over you because your too weak. If your radio has a scanning feature or spectrum scope set that up to scan and that's a much quicker way to look for contacts. Early on in a contest use the second method to get your score up and at the end of the contest use the first method. This is because many stations that were only calling CQ in the beginning of the contest are now going to be scanning the bands looking for last minute contacts and points.

The contest exchanges are pretty simple for instance in the ARRL VHF contests you tell the other station what grid square you are in and maybe a signal report. You can look up your square on QRZ.com or the ARRL website. Once both stations exchange grid locators and acknowledge then that's it. You can also ask the other station if they have other bands available and if so move to the next band for context points. Typical ARRL VHF/UHF contest exchange:

<AJ9ON>CQ Contest CQ Contest this is aj9on Alpha Juliet Nine Oscar November over.

<N9RJV>November Nine Romeo Juliet Victor

If you didn't catch the call say something like QRZ this is <your call> or November nine station again.

<AJ9ON>N9rjv please copy Echo November 52 over. EN52 is my grid square.

<N9RJV>Roger, please copy Echo November 51 over

If you didn't get the grid square ask for it again, if you are being asked for a fill repeat it a few times.

<AJ9ON>Roger, can you work 446 FM? Over Here you ask the other station if they can work other bands.

<N9RJV>Negative, good luck in the contest. N9RJV
<AJ9ON>Good luck, CQ Contest

If the other station says they can work another band then tell them what frequency you want them to move to. The other station will then say something like roger and moving to <frequency>. You come back and say QSY <frequency> <your call>. After giving your exchange on this band and if your radio is capable of another band ask to switch again, otherwise tell them 73 and good luck in the contest. Now move back down to your original frequency and listen before calling CQ because someone may have jumped on your frequency, if so move, if not call CQ.

Now if your radio is capable of SSB and or CW that's where most of the action is, once again stay on or around the SSB and CW calling frequencies and the exchanges are the same. Except in these modes you will want to use horizontal polarization because most other stations will be using that too. But if all you have is a vertical then try using a hunt a pounce method in SSB, you can still make a few local contacts when two stations are cross polarized.

Contesting provides you with practice copying call signs, operating speed and using your radio features that you may not always use. Well I hope to hear you at the next VHF or UHF contest. Remember to read the rules, the contest exchange and please do submit a log. Good luck and 73, AJ9ON clear.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Monday, January 22, 2007

Board members:

Bill Smead, K9IIM

Barb Schuyler, N9NM

Pete Schuyler, N9OF

Guests:

Bruce Zapel, N9QPD

Kent Ochs, W9KAO

Phil Sawicki, N9IQ

George Greene, NE9ET

John Bettasso, AJ9ON

Mark Deelsnyder, KB9VHA

Cliff Sowka, K9QD

Pete called the meeting to order at

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report – Cliff Sowka reported that the club has \$1793.73 all bills paid. Board had tabled motion to accept the report from Cliff until the 2006 Year balance sheet is updated.

Secretary's Report – Room used for the Board of Directors meeting secured for 2007. Paula Uscian is

SARC's registered agent and once she received the corporate annual report forms, she will complete and have the President or Secretary sign the document.

President's Report – Kent commented on the previous year, talked about shortening the general meeting so it does not run long and ways of increasing attendance.

Membership Report – A chairperson is needed for this position, if interested see any officer or board member. Here is a description of the duties:

1. Answers any inquiries about membership in SARC with the proper information, and provides follow up assistance and encouragement to join the club. These inquiries may be from the SARC voice mail, E-mail, left on the repeater, by regular mail, by filling out an information card at a SARC event, in person at an information booth set up by the club at a ham radio related event, or any other way created to request this information.
2. Produces promotional materials, pamphlets, or brochures, as necessary to disseminate information about membership in SARC.
3. Maintains an accurate membership database.
4. Greets members at the regular monthly meeting, and offers a personal contact to prospective or new members, and guests, if they have any questions or need any assistance from the club.
5. Attempts to get new members actively involved in the club, by providing information on existing committees that they can help with, and upcoming public service events that their help is encouraged at. The name and phone number of any member expressing an interest in helping should be forwarded to the appropriate committee chair.
6. Oversees the renewal and retention process for existing members.
7. Surveys existing members, and contacts members who choose not to renew their membership, and provides the club, and other committee chairs, with information on how to best retain and increase membership in the club.
8. Coordinates with the publications committee to see that the correct number of newsletters are printed, and the current membership list is provided for the addressing of the newsletters for mailing.
9. Provides the club with a status report from the committee each month at the regular meeting, and sees that this status, and a list of new members, is published in the following month's RHG.
10. Keeps a written record of the committees activities.
11. Obtains approval from the board of directors for any expense to be incurred by this committee.
12. Appoints other members to the committee as is deemed necessary.
13. Assumes any other related duties as directed by the board of directors or the president.

Public Service – No report

RHG Newsletter – Mark Deelsnyder will ask Rob Glowaki for the print shop's email address. Monthly

articles were assigned to board members and officers. Mark will be in vacation in February, get articles to him early.

Construction Projects – Bill Smead said meetings are going strong.

VE Testing – George Greene reported that testing is in the Sr. lounge, just around the corner from the door.

Social Activities – no report

Nets – no report

Education – A chairperson is needed for this position, if interested see any officer or board member. Here is a description of the duties:

1. Organizes introductory and upgrade Amateur Radio licensing classes, and secures an instructor for each class session held.
2. Secures a room to hold the licensing classes in.
3. Attempts to make the classes part of the regularly scheduled curriculum of the park district, or community education district.
4. Gets information on our intention to hold the class, as well as the class schedule, to the appropriate person publishing the course curriculum flyers sent out to the community. This can be 6-9 months or more in advance of the class start date.
5. Advertises the upcoming classes by submitting an article to the RHG editor as far in advance as possible.
6. Coordinates the formation and retention of a pool of "Elmers" who are willing to provide personal instructional help, radio station setup, or operating help, to any local hams or prospective hams that need it. Publication of the list of "Elmers" will be submitted to the RHG editor to make them known to the existing SARC members on a regular basis.
7. Surveys the existing membership for their needs regarding upgrade classes, and when they should be run, and encourages them to upgrade.
8. Publish dates and times of upcoming local VE testing sessions in the RHG.
9. Act as club liaison for local VE testing activities.
10. Provides the club with a status report from the committee each month at the regular meeting, and sees that this status is published in the following month's RHG.
11. Keeps a written record of the committees activities.
12. Obtains approval from the board of directors for any expense to be incurred by this committee.
13. Appoints other members to the committee as is deemed necessary.

Assumes any other related duties as directed by the board of directors or the president.

Fox Hunts – no report

Publicity – Mark Deelsnyder reported election results will be in next section news.

Meeting Programs – no reports

Em-Com – Bill Zapel will work to get calling tree in order and is planning on an emergency set.

eBay Sales – no report

N9RJV license renewal – Secretary will contact Al Silver to renew.

Repeater – Discussion continued about the club adopting the repeater, by Feb board meeting a final proposal to the membership will be completed and presented at Feb general meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Smead made a motion to allow the officers to vote on board matters, seconded by Pete. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Bill Smead moved to appoint Mark D. to replace outgoing board member Jim Campbell for remainder of term. Seconded by George Greene

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting closed at 8:37PM.

Respectfully submitted by John Bettasso, AJ9ON
Secretary

Minutes of the Regular Meeting Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club, Inc Monday, January 22, 2007

President Kent Ochs, W9KAO called the meeting to order at 7:09PM.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's report – George Greene, NE9ET reported that the club has a \$1803.93 balance as of the meeting and all bills are paid.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Kent Ochs made a motion to accept the meeting treasurer's report as printed in the January RHG, seconded by Adrian Russel, KB9YAB and David Dietrich, KC9EHQ.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Net Control – no report

Membership - The club is still looking for a chairperson.

Repeater – Bill Smead K9IHK reported they are planning to work on the repeater touch-tones. Repeater features: use 140# to listen to your audio into the repeater and CW practice feature, hit *5, *13 or *20 the repeater will give you 1 minute of random code.

Public Service – no report

Education Chair – no report

Em-Comm – David Dietrich reported the NWS posted Spotter training classes on their website.

Program chair - Adrian Russell, no report.

Fund Raising- no report

VE Testing – George Greene reported that a few folks tested for CW even-though it's end is near.

Website – no report

Construction project – Bill Smead reported they fixed an old Navy transceiver at the last meeting.

RHG – Mark Deelsnyder KB9VHA reported that the current month's RHG has not been printed but is posted on website, Siemens print shop was backed up and will print ASAP. If you have anything for sale you can list it in the newsletter.

Social Activities – John Bettasso reported that if you have any social activities or ways to increase club participation to call or email Kim Bettasso. 8474382951, berbly2@ameritech.net

Fox Hunting – no report

Field Day 07 – Looking for someone to step up and organize tent captions, food, setup and teardown, this person will have lots of support from everyone that participates.

NEW BUSINESS

Radio Expo will be at Boon County Fairgrounds, Belvidere, IL. Sept 29-30, 2007

Kent asked for feedback from members for what he can do to improve attendance at meetings, nets or improve the club. Send him your ideas.

Respectfully submitted by John Bettasso, AJ9ON, Club secretary.



MAROONED WITH HIS NEW BRIDE AND THE LATEST ISSUE OF "QST,"
WALTER SETTLES IN FOR THE LONG WAIT TO BE RESCUED.

www.qsl.net/k4adl.



VE TESTING RESULTS

NEXT EXAMS:
February 3, 2007
March 3, 2007

Park District CRC ; Sr. Lounge.
RESULTS FOR January 6, 2007, TEST SESSION:

CLASS	NUMBER TESTED	NEW LICENSE or UPGRADE
Technician	5	5
General	4	1
Extra	1	1
Total	10	7

NEW LICENSES

****Technician****

Michael Goldberg	KC9KQF
Karl Widmark	KC9KQG
Maurycy Sliwonski	KC9KQH
John Harvey	KC9KQI
Justin Kahn	KC9KQJ

UPGRADES:

****GENERAL:****

Dean Lewis WA3WGV

****EXTRA:****

Ashton Lee W9ASH

The fee for taking a VE exam increased from \$12.00 to \$14.00 on January 1, 2005. This increase applies to all W5YI and ARRL VEC test sites nationwide. The increase was attributed to the diminishing number of examinees and rising costs.

According to the FCC, the test fee allows an examinee one attempt to pass or fail each of the four examination elements. In addition, the order in which the examination elements are taken is not restricted; they may be taken out of sequence.

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. 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 Senior Lounge just inside the doors. Signs will be posted to guide the way to the room.

As in the past, an identical fee will be assessed to any applicant who fails an exam and wants to retake 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.

Larry Carr NO9A
W5YI-VEC CVE & Test Session Manager
847-593-8658
E mail: NO9A@ARRL.NET

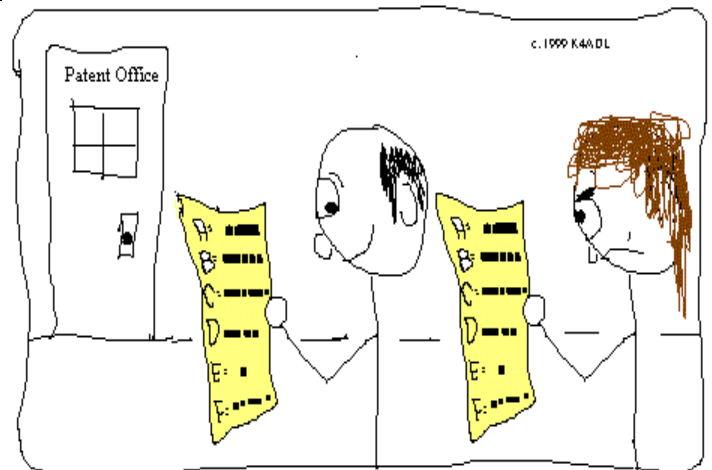


Wanted to Buy!

VX5-R Handheld. In reasonable condition.
Contact Bill Smead, K9IIM @ (847) 934-1817 or
smeadster@aol.com

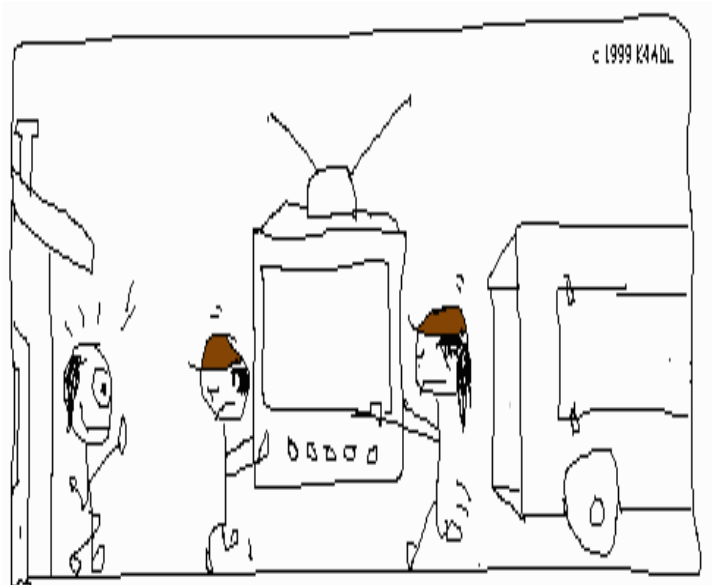
2007 SARC OFFICERS

President: Kent Ochs	W9KAO 847-891-6025
Vice Pres.: Phil Sawicki	N9IQ
Secretary: John Bettasso	AJ9ON SkypeME
Treasurer: George Greene	NE9ET
Director: Bill Smead	K9IIM 847 934-1817
Director: Barb Schuyler	N9NM
Director: Pete Schuyler	N9OF
Director: Bruce Widenhoefer	KB9JEJ
Director: Mark Deelsnyder	KB9VHA



LUCKILY FOR US, SAMUEL MORSE ARRIVES AT THE PATENT OFFICE
JUST SECONDS BEFORE IGOR CZNXOVIZKYNOVIA

www.qsl.net/k4adl.



UNAWARE THERE ARE 14 HAMS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OPERATING ON 6 METERS,
VICTOR TAKES DELIVERY OF A 60 INCH TV, COMPLETE WITH RABBIT EARS.

www.qsl.net/k4adl.

SARC Membership / Renewal Form

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: N T G A E Expires: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____ ARRL Member? Yes/No if yes, expires: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Additional (non-voting) licensed persons at the same address (INCLUDE CALL, CLASS, AND EXPIRATION):

(If new, how did you hear about the club?) _____

Special Interests: _____

Type of membership:

- New membership – full voting (Licensed) \$25.00**
- Full Voting (Licensed) Membership renewal (\$20.00)
- Additional (Licensed) Family members at SAME ADDRESS to become full voting member(\$10.00)
- Full Voting, Senior (over 60) (\$15.00)
- Full voting, Full time Student (\$15.00)

All memberships expire one calendar year from the date you join.

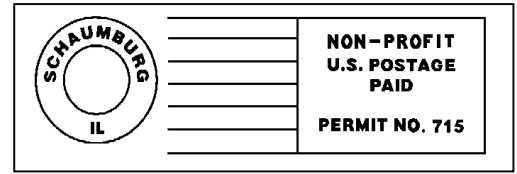
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please submit your application by mail, in person at any club meeting, or to any club director or officer.

Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 68251, Schaumburg, IL. 60168-0251

Note! The IRS requires us to inform you that, though we are a not for profit organization, DUES are NOT tax deductible.

Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 68251
Schaumburg, IL. 60168-0251



Deliver To:



Thursday Night 9:00 Net
S.A.R.C. Repeater
145.23 MHz - 600 kHz

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 9p.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 60194-3077

Or E-mail to: sarc-rhg@comcast.net

We solicit letters, articles, news items, quizzes, advertisements, suggestions, and criticism -- plus anything else you can think of, including ideas to improve the RHG!

The editor reserves the right to edit submissions due to size or formatting limitations. S.A.R.C. shares newsletters with a number of other clubs. We scrutinize their publications very closely to make sure that we do not infringe on any copyrights. As a matter of form, we try to acknowledge all prior sources. Unless otherwise clearly identified as copyright protected, all material in the RHG may be used when due credit is given to the author and to SARC.

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SARC Home Page URL

<http://n9rjv.org>

