

THE RADIO HILL GAZETTE

Volume XXXII Issue IV

April 2007

Celebrating Our 32nd Year in Publication

Club Calendar of Events



April 2007

Wed	4	7:00 PM	Board of Directors meeting – Schaumburg Airport
Thu	5	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz
Sat	7	8:00 AM	Official Saturday Morning Breakfast – Maxfields
Sat	7	9:00 AM	VE Testing Session - CRC
Thu	12	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz
Sat	14	8:00 AM	Construction Projects @ STP
Thu	19	7:00 PM	Monthly Club Meeting - CRC
Thu	26	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz
Sat	28	8:00 AM	Construction Projects @ STP

Dayton Hamvention®

Sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association
Since 1952

May 2007

Wed	2	7:00 PM	Board of Directors meeting – Schaumburg Airport
Thu	3	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz
Sat	5	8:00 AM	Official Saturday Morning Breakfast – Maxfields
Sat	5	9:00 AM	VE Testing Session - CRC
Thu	10	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz
Thu	17	7:00 PM	Monthly Club Meeting - CRC
	18		Dayton Hamvention – Hara Arena, Trotwood Ohio
	19		
	20		
Thu	24	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz
Thu	31	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz

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

To mail the RHG or not to mail the RHG, that is the question - Whether 'tis nobler to suffer the slings and arrows of printing, preparing, and mailing the RHG or to take arms against a sea of club members who would be upset if they didn't receive a mailed copy of the RHG. (A paraphrase from Shakespeare's Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, Act III scene I)

This is the dilemma that your club's Board and Officers have been wrestling with over the last few years. During this time we have had the good fortune of having members such as Ron Steinberg, W9RVR and Rob Glowacki, N9MVO who have been able to provide printed copies at bargain prices. But alas, our access to low cost printing have come to an end, and we must move on to find other printing and mailing options that fit within the club's budget.

Printing and Mailing the RHG is The Number One club expense. It is also the most resource intensive activity the club undertakes on a monthly basis. Thanks to the dedication of editor Mark Deelsynder, KB9VHA, we have something to print. As mentioned earlier, thanks to Rob Glowacki, N9MVO, it gets printed. Your Board, Officers and numerous Club Members make sure it gets folded, sealed, and labeled. And thanks to Andy Sharkey, K9AND, it gets dropped off at the Post Office Bulk Permit Office within their limited hours of operations.

It is quite clear, at this time, that we can no longer mail the 200+ copies required to fulfill the requirements of our bulk mail permit. Over the last

few years we have mailed copies to dues paying members, non dues paying members, and complimentary copies in hopes of attracting new members. In order to fulfill the Board's and Officer's pledge to control costs, this practice can not be allowed to continue.

At this time, your Board and Officers remain committed to delivering a printed copy of the RHG. There are definite benefits to continue the practice of mailing a paper copy to members and other public organizations such as schools, libraries, and other clubs. An occasional complimentary mailing to new and local amateurs may be beneficial in generating new membership.

By limiting mailing to dues paying members, carefully selected public organizations, and occasional complimentary mailings, we can reduce printing costs and keep first class mailing costs within the costs of printing and mailing 200+ RHG at bulk permit rates. It will also reduce the time to prepare the mailing and allow the club to drop the mailing off at the Post Office any time we please.

If you are reading this and haven't recently paid your dues, this will probably be one of the last copies of the RHG you will receive. If you would like to continue to receive a printed copy of the RHG, please send in your dues. If not, the RHG will be available online at the club's website at no cost to you.

To mail or not to mail.... As a dues paying member, you feel the club would be better served by reading the RHG online at N9RJV.org we welcome your opinion. If you know of someone who can print the RHG at bargain prices, please let us know.

EXTEND YOUR RADIO SHACK'S RANGE by Dick, K9LW

I am retired and work on projects around the house while monitoring frequencies on 80 and 160 meters where "the group" hangs out. Anyone in the group might take a break from their activities and put out a CQ or specific call to one or more of us. Some in the group use wireless headphones to listen to their rigs when they are out of their shacks. These remote listening devices allow individuals to listen for CQ's directed to their stations. They are also useful when as many as 6 or 8 people in the group are rag chewing in a round table and the need arises to leave the shack for another cup of coffee or a "bio-break".

I investigated wireless headphones but came up with, for me, a better remote listening system. I purchased a "F8V3080 BELKIN TUNECAST II MOBILE FM TRANSMITTER" at Walmart for \$30 (There is a \$20 unit with limited features and no means of connecting an

external power supply). This unit is primarily intended to allow the user to play an MP3 player or other device through a car's stereo system by broadcasting on a PLL selected frequency in the FM broadcast band (88.1 to 107.9 MHz in 0.1 MHz steps). I placed my unit (approximately 1" diameter and 3" long with digital frequency display) in service in my second floor radio shack and found the range to be over 60 feet and capable of being heard in my basement workshop as well as across the street from my house on a small palm size radio. This cheap radio has no speaker but uses a lightweight head set (thus - a wireless headphone!). Now when I'm anywhere in my home, I either turn on one of the many FM receivers we have accumulated over the years or wear the palm size radio's headphones. At first it is disconcerting to hear CW or SSB (along with atmospheric conditions) among the rock & roll, fine music, and Public radio stations. What might happen if my neighbor picks up my (legal) signal on his \$1000 + audio installation? Fortunately the limited range makes this unlikely.

This unit allows you to put four frequencies into memory for easy frequency selection and I have selected channels that are essentially vacant in our region. (Two officially vacate channels are occupied by pirate radio stations covering a 2 or 3 mile radius from the intersection of Higgins and Barrington roads). It will turn off after 60 seconds of silence and turn back on almost instantaneously upon signal detection. It comes with a hardwired short cord and 3.5 mm stereo plug you insert in your rig's phone jack (works fine in my Ten Tec's mono phone jack and a 3.5 mm to ¼ stereo adapter plug) and is powered with either two AAA batteries (two Duracell batteries are included, not cheap foreign off-brands) or by a supplied 3 ft cable for the cigarette lighter port of your car (or 12VDC power supply).

You might want to use this idea to enhance your HT, other V/UHF, or HF radio's audio when you're in your car. Or, perhaps you need more audio gain in some other application.

Oh yes, if you have the inclination to listen to some people busy with ham radio projects, monitor (or put out a CQ on) 3552 KHz during the day (especially Sunday mornings) and on 1804 KHz evenings after 7 or 8 PM. Don't hesitate to join in, the group is happy to QRS.

CW is Dead ... Long Live CW !!! Or, There's Something Fishy About That

We've all heard rumblings about the imminent demise of ham radio now that the FCC has removed CW as a testing requirement. There has been much written in the ham press and much conversation on the air and at club

meetings and pizza parties on the continuing existence of CW.

Whatever your position is on the CW testing requirement, that will not be debated here. I'm not going to get into that dog fight. Rather, I'm going to rattle on about the continuing existence of CW as an on-air activity.

Consider the relationship between our use of CW and the sport of fishing.

You want fish for dinner? Visit any number of fine restaurants or hit the grocery store or the Fulton Fish Market. No need to get out the hook, line, and sinker. The time of catching your own dinner is long past. So why do so many of us go bobbing about in a row boat or wade into a rushing stream or sit on a upturned bucket on a wind swept frozen lake just to catch a fish? Because we enjoy it! We do it for the fun of fishing, not because we have to. (Yes, I know, there are still the professionals who go out every day to supply the fish markets, but I'm talking about the sport fishermen, hobbyists if you will).

There are all kinds of fisherpersons. Competition bass fishermen, muskie specialists, deep sea fishermen, surf casters, fly fishermen, and those of us who just drown worms on a sunny Saturday. We've spent years perfecting our cast, or searching for the perfect backwater. Or we've just started out with hook, line, and sinker at the local forest preserve pond.

We got started fishing when we were a kid watching Dad, or maybe we married a fisherperson, or we tuned across a fishing show on TV and were impressed by the elegance of the fly fisherman and wanted to try it, or were just looking for something new to do in our spare time.

I've watched a bass fishing competition on a lake near my Mom's place down in Florida. Fancy overpowered Bass Boats ripping back and forth. Scary. No place for a row boat. Didn't really follow what was going on but the boats were cool and gee maybe someday I can do some serious fishing even if not at that level. Anyway we can put the rowboat in the next lake over and later on, after the bass boats are back on their trailers and headed out of town, we can come back over here. You know what else? Even though one or two of those bass boat guys looked down their nose at the cane pole in the rowboat, after the competition the rest of them turned out to be regular guys sitting at the coffee shop talking about their cane pole days and being encouraging to a worm drowner.

Hams are going to use CW for ever, even though it's a terrible anachronism, just because it's FUN.

If you're new to CW, start slow, don't be intimidated by the Big Guns, and ignore the inconsiderate individuals who won't slow down for a newbie. Look around and you'll find plenty of folks to talk to on the bands. There is plenty of ways to enjoy CW, DXing, contesting, playing with QRP, or old fashioned ragchewing. Yes, you can do all those things on phone or keyboard but using CW is just plain fun. Get on the air, and the skill will come.

If you've been using CW forever, try to remember how it was when you were new at it. You probably didn't really want to learn the code but you did. You also discovered it was fun, not just a requirement. Shaky hands, sweaty palms, what was that prosign again? Some Old Timer slowed down for you, I'll guarantee. Talk to the newbie, you might just find you have other things in common. And you'll be helping to sustain Ham Radio.

CW may no longer be a requirement but folks are still going to find out it has value, and it's fun. Just like fishing.

Vy 73 es DX

O.F.

THE SARC SOCIAL CORNER WITH KIM BETTASSO

For those of you that were at the meeting on March 15th, you received a copy of the survey I created in regards to the socializing in the club. In regards to that, I just want to send out a short note recapping my plea.

We are attempting to determine if a social activities coordinator is needed for the club. In order to accomplish this, we need some information from all of you. If you would, please complete the survey that is located on the back page of the newsletter and return it to me by or at the next club meeting. We will be putting the responses together and will present them once all the information is tabulated.

I do want to let you know that you need not fear about the regularly scheduled club activities like Field Day, the Picnic and the Christmas/Holiday Party. Those events will all still occur each year. However, depending on the outcome of the survey, the club may no longer officially coordinate any other activities. Adhoc get togethers will most likely still occur, but they will be put together by the person or persons interested, not by an actual club social activities chair.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or email me, or write me a letter even. My contact information is below.

Kim Bettasso
530 Burr Oak Drive
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

847-438-2951

berbly2@ameritech.net

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Monday, March 26, 2007**

Board members:

Bill Smead, K9IIM
Barb Schuyler, N9NM
Pete Schuyler, N9OF
Mark Deelsnyder, KB9VHA
Bruce Widenhoefer, KB9JEJ

Guests:

Kent Ochs, W9KAO
Phil Sawicki, N9IQ
John Bettasso, AJ9ON
Larry Carr, NO9A
Kim Bettasso

Pete called the meeting to order at 7:18PM

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report – No report

Secretary's Report – Reported that the ARRL Annual report was submitted

Presidents report – Kent Ochs reported that he filled the Corporate Annual Report as prepared by Paula Uscian, it was mailed out Feb 12. Kent also received the insurance premium renewal for amount of \$320. Andy Sharkey will coordinate with the treasury to pay the insurance premium.

Membership Report – No chairperson

Public Service – Andy Sharkey reported that an inquiry came in for participants for the Relay for Life. First walk will be MS Walk sometime end of April or beginning of May.

RHG Newsletter – No report

Construction Projects – Bill Smead reported two or three meetings are left.

VE Testing – No report

Social Activities – Kim Bettasso presented to the board a survey to be sent out to find out club members

Nets – no report

Education – no report

Fox Hunts – no report

Publicity – no report

Meeting Programs – no report

Em-Com – no report

eBay Sales – Larry Carr reported that he does have items for sale and will put it out on eBay.

N9RJV lic. Renewal has been completed and will be good until 2017.

Finalization of the dues increase has been completed and published in newsletter will be effective in July.

NEW BUSINESS

RHG /Cost and timeliness issues – Bill Smead spoke to Ron's friend Todd, he will charge \$.063 a copy and \$20 to convert pdf to printable format or \$70 for 210 copies. Extras \$38 to staple. Pete checked Office Depot it was \$81 for 100 units folded and stapled. Bill also suggested we talk to the park district and see if we can use their copy machine and if we supplied the paper and a body to do the work.

Andy Sharkey spoke that mailing 210 copies a month is \$36.75 or \$441 per year plus the \$160 permit fee, total \$601 per year. If using first class postage at \$.39 mailing 110 copies to members only then \$42.90 per month and \$514.80 per year with a savings of \$86.20 per year.

Pete offered an alternative to mail a postcard to members only reminding of meeting and keep the RHG online. He also suggested going to an every other month mailing of the newsletters.

Mark was asked to contact Todd, Ron's friend for a quote for \$110.

Larry Carr said at the last construction meeting said someone paid through Paypal and has yet to receive a new member packet. Larry checked and the notifications were going to an old AOL account. Larry said seven folks have paid and sent the info to the President and Treasurer.

Bill Smead reported current balance of the Repeater Association as of 2/4/2007 (\$380.31), the last phone bill was \$25.00

The club received one renewal as a result printing the application form in the RHG.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting closed at 8:58PM.

Respectfully submitted by John Bettasso, AJ9ON
Secretary

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club, Inc
Monday, March 26, 2007**

President Kent Ochs, W9KAO called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's report – George Greene, NE9ET not present, no report

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Kent Ochs made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as they appear in the Oct. RHG Mel Luxenberg W9FRT and seconded Roger Ryan, W9RDR. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF DUES INCREASE

Motion on the floor to accept the dues increase. Motion passed by unaniomos vote of general members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Net Control - Rob Glowacki, N9MVO not present, no report

Membership – David Dietrich, KC9EHQ volunteered as chairman. Kc9ehqextra@yahoo.com

Repeater – Kent reported that a few hourly messages have been removed.

Public Service - Dave Downing N9DAV not present, no report

Education Chair – The club is still looking for a chairperson.

Em-Comm – Bill Smead received a call from Hoffman Estates ESDA and asked if the club was still doing Em-comm activities.

Program chair - Adrian Russell, KB9YAB not present, no report

Fund Raising- Roy Merkley, KC9BPI not present, no report

VE Testing – Larry Carr, NO9A reported that 19 folks showed up at the last session. 18 upgrades and one new licensee.

Website – Bruce Warrington, N9EHA reported that the mailing list is going to end. The website does offer some sort of mailing list support otherwise we will use Yahoo or Google groups. Bruce will send out the new mailing info once one is chosen.

Construction project – Bill Smead, K9IIM reported that some are left this year.

RHG – Mark Deelsnyder KB9VHA reported that he has received a couple articles. Superior Copies will be printing the RHG now since Siemens will not be printing for us anymore. The cost about \$70-\$100. Mark is looking for articles or for sale items.

Social Activities – Kim Bettasso put together a survey and handed out at the meeting to get a sense for what members want to do outside of the club.

Fox Hunting – Bruce Widenhoefer, KB9JEJ not present, no report

Field Day 07 – Need a chairperson for FD to happen.

NEW BUSINESS

Electronic/Mailed RHG – Many folks expressed opinions around this issue for and against the issue. Bill Smead made motion not to renew the Bulk mail permit seconded by Roger Ryan and David Dietrich. Motion passed. It was decided to continue printing and sending to all members using std postage and letting the member decide if they want to discontinue receiving it.

The motion tabled last month by Cliff Sowka was to accept the SARC K9IIK Repeater System as a Club asset, accept responsibility for the expenses associated with it's operation and maintenance and incorporate the SARC Repeater Assoc. as a standing committee within the Club Organization. Motion put to membership. Motion passed by unanimous membership vote.

Cliff made a motion to reimburse Bill Smead for past phone bill expenses of \$430. Carl Peterson kb9wca seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members.

VOTING OF NEW MEMBERS

Due to problems with the Paypal account, we didn't receive notice of these new members until recently.

Prashanth Siddalingaiah KC9JPJ

William Evans N9DUV

Alan Medsker WB0SQR

Michael Goza KC9JQR

Richard Parks K9LW

Motion to accept all members, Pete Schuyler and seconded by Carl Peterson. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members.

Respectfully submitted by John Bettasso, AJ9ON, Club secretary.



Wanted to Buy!

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



VE TESTING RESULTS

NEXT EXAMS:
April 7, 2007,
May 5, 2007

Park District CRC ; Sr. Lounge.

RESULTS FOR March 3, 2007, TEST SESSION:

CLASS	NUMBER TESTED	NEW LICENSE or UPGRADE
Technician	1	1
General	13	13
Extra	5	5
Total	19	19

NEW LICENSES

******Technician******

Richard Devries KC2RBT

******GENERAL**:****

UPGRADES:

******GENERAL**:****

Marco Paratore KC9FFV

Connie "Dudley" Basham W9DUD

David Allen KB9YNY

James Pizzuto KC9HSM

Vernon Lenth KC0QNL

Harry Taylor K9HDT

Karl Widmark KC9KQG

Maurycy Sliwowski KC9KQH

Leif Ericksen N9SRW

Howard Marcus N9OML

Roger Hanna W9RWO

Peter Coons KC9KKI

Francesco Losurdo KB9QBQ

******EXTRA**:****

Kent Ochs W9KAO

William Massey KD5ERB

Mark Schmitz KB9KT
Michael Lenth N5UYD
Jeffrey Kmiec W9KJK

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 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.

Larry Carr NO9A

W5YI-VEC CVE & Test Session Manager

847-593-8658

E mail: N09A@ARRL.NET

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

Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club – Social Activities Club Survey

Please return to Kim Bettasso by or at the next club meeting – 4/19/2007

1	How many regular club meetings to do you attend a year?	0-3	4-6	7-9	10-12
2	Do you ever go out after the regular club meeting?	Yes	No		
3	Have you participated in the Field Day event in the past five years? (i.e. Do you operate during Field Day?)	Yes	No		
3a	If yes, how many?	1	2	3	4 5
3b	Are you planning on participating this year?	Yes	No		
4	Have you attended the Field Day event in the past five years? (i.e. Do you just come for the food and conversation?)	Yes	No		
4a	If yes, how many?	1	2	3	4 5
4b	Are you planning on attending this year?	Yes	No		
5	Have you attended the Summer Picnic at Volkening Lake in the past five years?	Yes	No		
5a	If yes, how many?	1	2	3	4 5
5b	Are you planning on attending this year?	Yes	No		
6	Have you attended the Christmas Party in the past five years?	Yes	No		
6a	If yes, how many?	1	2	3	4 5
6b	Are you planning on attending this year?	Yes	No		
7	Do you feel it is important to have social events outside of the club with club members?	Yes	No		
7a	If yes, are you interested in attending club coordinated events that are "ham radio" oriented?	Yes	No		
7a1	If yes, would you please provide examples of what you would be interested in. _____				

7b	If yes, are you interested in attending club coordinated events that are not "ham radio" oriented?	Yes	No		
7b1	If yes, would you please provide examples of what you would be interested in. _____				

8	Have you attended any club sponsored events that are not "ham radio" oriented in the past five years? (i.e. Baseball game, Ravenia, etc.)	Yes	No		
8a	If yes, how many have you attended?	1	2	3	4 5+

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 60169-3077

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.

SARC is a recognized ARRL Special Services Organization.

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SARC Home Page URL

<http://n9rjv.org>

