

THE RADIO HILL GAZETTE

Volume XXXIII Issue V

May 2008

Celebrating Our 33rd Year in Publication

Club Calendar of Events

May 2008

Thu	1	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz NCS: Dave KC9EHQ
Sat	3	8:00 AM	Official Saturday Morning Breakfast – Maxfields
Sat	3	9:00 AM	VE Testing Session - CRC
Sun	4	6:30 AM	MS Walk – Harper College
Thu	8	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz NCS: Rob N9MVO
Thu	15	7:00 PM	Monthly Club Meeting – CRC & Business Meeting
Fri, Sat, Sun	16, 17, 18		Dayton Hamvention
Thu	22	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz NCS: John AJ9ON
Wed	28	9:00 PM	Cook Co. ARES Net – 146.880 – SARA repeater
Thu	24	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz NCS: Bob AF9U

June 2008

Wed	4	7:00 PM	Board of Directors meeting – Schaumburg Airport
Thu	5	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz NCS: Dave KC9EHQ
Sat	7	8:00 AM	Official Saturday Morning Breakfast – Maxfields
Sat	7	9:00 AM	VE Testing Session - CRC
Sat	7	7:00 AM	Tour De Cure - Geneva
Thu	12	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz NCS: Rob N9MVO
Thu	19	7:00 PM	Monthly Club Meeting – CRC & Business Meeting
Thu	22	9:00 PM	SARC Net 145.230 kHz NCS: John AJ9ON
Fri	27		Field Day - Plum Grove Road Water Tank
Sat	28		Field Day - Plum Grove Road Water Tank
Sun	29		Field Day - Plum Grove Road Water Tank

SSB Net Every Tuesday at 7:30 pm. 144.2095

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 K9IIK REPEATER; 145.23 MHz.-600 kHz WITH 107.2 Hz PL

GALVIN

To radio people the name says it all.

On May 15, the Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club is going to have Bob Galvin as our guest speaker. He joined Motorola in 1940 (before the war). He was there when the first (5.5 pound) walkie-talkie was invented, the first pager, the first portable phone, the first cell phone. He was on President Reagan's international communications commissions. Probably no man in the world has had greater influence on two-way radio communications than he. From 1957 to 1987 he grew annual sales for Motorola from \$217 million to \$6.7 billion. He was CEO for 30 years.

He is not at the club to talk about finance though; he is at the club to talk about RADIO. He was invited to talk about anything about RADIO he wants to!

Do you want to come and listen, and maybe ask a question or two?

Bring a HAM type friend with you!

John Bettasso AJ9ON President
Roger D. Ryan W9RDR 847.687.9000

CQ Field Day 1965

High on a Hill in the Corn Fields of Nebraska

by Bob McIntyre AF9U

Field Day is coming in June! It will be held the weekend of June 28-29th. This year I feel compelled to write about field day and one in particular – my first field day. It was a fun experience and a ham radio adventure I will always remember. So what does this have to do with corn fields and hills in Nebraska? Read on and I'll explain.

All of us follow a different path when we come to amateur radio. I'm not as old as Marconi and not as old as our most senior club member but I have been involved in the hobby for quite some time. I became a Novice class licensee with the call sign WN0DXR in the fall of 1962. When I received my "ticket" I was convinced that the FCC was looking out for me. Surely it was a good sign they had issued my new call letters with "DXR" included. How cool was that! At that time I lived in Omaha, Nebraska and I was 14 years old. Electronics and amateur radio created a big "spark" in my life and I soon found that being involved in the hobby brought many rewarding experiences.

You needed to be involved with the Morse code back then and I must confess that I really did enjoy learning and using A1 emission (and I still do). I practiced and made contacts on the air and in a few months I was able to enter the 1963 Novice Roundup contest. I began studying for the General exam and later that year became WA0DXR. The ARRL Sweepstakes intrigued me so I entered the contest and filled my log book with contacts. I was hooked on amateur radio and spent as much time as I could with the hobby.

Then in the spring of 1965 **it happened!** Field Day was coming in June. I only knew what I had read in QST magazine about this event. I had often dreamed of taking equipment in the field although the prospect of doing it was daunting since most equipment was heavy and used vacuum tubes. I would need a portable AC generator if I was going to be away from commercial power lines. What about antennas? Surely one would need a great antenna to participate. Could I pitch a tent? What about food and water? My mind was spinning with questions. How would I ever be able to participate in the premier emergency readiness event for hams?

Looking back, I wish I had been involved in a club like SARC so that I would have been able to participate with a group. There was a local club in my area but as a high school student I hadn't come in contact with them. There were no 2 meter repeaters, no internet, and no computers for a "google" information search. I soon realized that this was going to be a "solo" event with one operator on board – me.

Slowly it all started coming together. I began telling my mother of my hopes and dreams for Field Day. She knew some friends who owned a farm in a rural area north of the city. The wheels began to turn. This would be an ideal location. I asked her to see if they would allow me to use one of their fields for my weekend experiment. They agreed!

Next I needed to figure out what equipment I could bring. I had just said goodbye to my Eico 720 transmitter and Mosley CM1 receiver. I had a part time job in high school and had recently purchased a brand new tube type transceiver. My new "baby" was a 300 watt CW/SSB radio for 80 thru 10 meters. It was a Galaxy V transceiver from World Radio Laboratories.

At first the antenna issue was not easy for me to resolve. With limited funds from my recent purchase and an antenna crew of one, I had to come up with a compromise that would be a good multi-band radiator. I owned a Johnson Viking match box (antenna tuner) and had a roll of 22 gauge wire on the shelf. The obvious solution seemed to be a long wire antenna. I made a quick trip to the lumber yard and picked up some 6 foot 2x2 pieces of lumber. By nailing two of these together I reasoned that I could reach the towering height of 10-12 feet in the air. I threw in rope and stakes to help secure these supports. Ground rods, a sledge hammer, extension cords and my trusty SWR meter completed the list.

Then I found a rental shop with an AC generator available for the weekend. It had sufficient capacity so I reserved it. I'm not sure if a young high school student would be allowed to rent equipment like that today but they were willing to let me do it. A deposit and cash in hand was all I needed. That was it. Now it was really going to happen!

When Field Day arrived the anticipation was overwhelming. The weather was good and the sky was sunny. I packed up my radios and antenna, made sandwiches and put pop in the cooler. A card table and

folding chair were packed in the car along with two gas cans. After renting the generator I stopped to fill up the gas cans and it cost nearly 25 cents/gallon. I was ready. Look out Marconi here I come!!

As I approached my destination I noticed the area had small hills as the river was nearby. When I arrived at the farm I stopped at the farm house and introduced myself. After a friendly greeting they told me which path to drive down and how to get out to the fields. Not only would they let me put up all the antennas I wanted but they said I wouldn't disturb anyone way out there with my generator. As I followed the path across the farm the road dipped down and went gradually up to an open field at the crest of the hill. I had arrived at my field day "field of dreams".

The first order of business was setting up the antenna. The location was about as good as one could expect in the flat lands of Nebraska. I was able to put my long wire across the highest part of the field where I had an excellent view of the surrounding area in all directions. I installed a ground rod, set up my table and hooked up the antenna tuner. The AC generator was located as far down the hill as my extension cords would reach. I poured in the gas and pulled the cord – putt putt...putt putt. What a glorious sound it was. Everything was ready.

There I was, high on a hill in the corn fields of Nebraska. I was "King of the Radio World!".

CQ Field Day... CQ Field Day... this is **WAODXR**.
Whiskey, Alpha, Zero, Delta, X-Ray, Radio standing by!

I don't know how many contacts or points I made during that Field Day but I do know I had FUN. It was a radio experience I'll never forget. During the contest I received an unexpected call on 20 meters from a station on the island of Guam. What a thrill to work DX from the middle of a corn field under emergency power with a long wire antenna 10 feet off the ground.

Later that afternoon I had to cut my operation short as thunderstorms started to approach. I learned a good lesson that day about lightning safety too. When you're on the highest point around, and storm activity is approaching the area you should pack up the radios and run! When the storm front appeared to be a few miles away I happened to disconnect and lay my coax near the ground rod. Sparks jumped across to the ground rod more than once. I thought it was prudent for me to get in

my car and leave immediately. Now I'm glad I didn't stay out there on the hill overnight. The next day I returned after the storms had passed and continued my field day operations until the contest was over.

In June I plan on taking part in SARC Field Day 2008. In past years I haven't been able to attend for a variety of reasons but I do know I've been missing a lot. You'll miss out too if you're not there! Participating in field day might give you a few good ham radio memories too. You don't need to do what I did as a solo effort isn't required. You can attend field day and get a little help from your radio club friends.

Let's put a little "spark" back in SARC! If you're able to come out for field day let our chairman, Geoff Stevens, KA9QGH, know of your interests. If you can't be an operator then stop by and say hello.

See you there!

73,

Bob AF9U



Yaesu FT7800R Review By AJ9ON

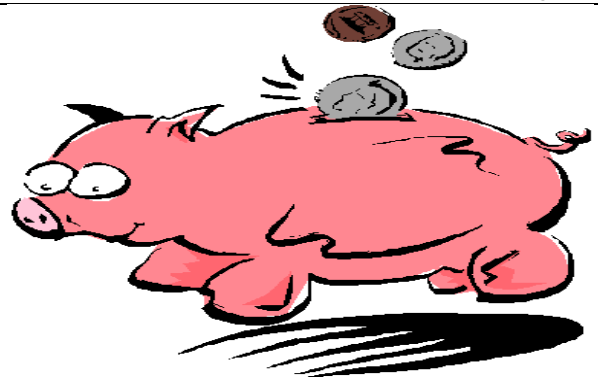
I purchased this radio in December from HRO but they were out of stock, so I waited over a month to get the radio. I didn't mind because the weather was not conducive to perform a mobile installation. When the rig finally arrived I was pleased to find it was exceptionally packed and the mobile installation kit was thrown in for free. I unpacked the unit, powered it up, and performed a master reset so I could start over with my own configuration. Having owned previous Yasue radios I was already familiar with the menu settings so manually programming was a breeze. Even for someone not familiar with this radio they could quickly program it after reviewing the appropriate section in the manual. The rig is a TX dual band (2M and 70cm) with continuous

receive in 108 – 520 MHz and 700 – 999 Hz (less cellular), and includes preprogrammed WX channels. Power out on 2m is 50w and 40w on 70cm. Audio from the built in speaker is adequate. The mic. is wonderful, it has a complete keypad and quick access buttons to commonly used functions. These quick access buttons can be programmed to perform any function that you would normally go into setup for. The mobile installation kit made installing into my truck a breeze.

Signal reports have been wonderful right out of the box. I worked Bill, N9WPD and he recommended I change a couple things to help me improve my Tx audio quality. I changed the microphone gain to half, positioned the mic about 4 inches off to the side of my mouth, and speaking in a normal conversational voice. Bill said the audio was fantastic. Finding someone to give you honest audio reports is rare. My Yaesu HT that I was using in the vehicle was susceptible to alternator wine; signal reports with the 7800 indicate no presence. A couple of downsides for me are the frequency steps do not go lower than 5KHz which limits your scanning ability. Oh well, if I wanted scanner like performance I should have bought a scanner. Also the ability to lock out the PTT, dial, buttons, etc, is not the easiest. In order to lock the radio you must go into setup each time by changing the lock setting, it's really a terrible solution, even using the quick access buttons on the mic don't help much. The ideal solution should have been as easy as holding in a button for a few seconds and poof it's locked.

Anyways, I recommend this rig if you're looking for a solid dual band FM radio, easy to use, and comes with a slick mobile mount. If you would like to see or operate my radio, see me before or after meetings and I would be glad to show you. I listen to the SARC repeater during my morning and evening commutes, if you hear me then please give me a call.

73, John, AJ9ON



SARC 2008 – 2009 Membership Dues

The Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club yearly dues are now payable to the club Treasury.

Last year the club changed to a membership dues year which begins July 1 and ends June 30 of the next year.

For regular members the amount due is \$25.00. Reduced rate annual renewals are \$20.00. Reduced fees apply only to full time students, active duty military, or over age 65.

Please help your club with your timely renewal. Dues may be:

- submitted to our Cliff our treasurer
- Mailed to the club mailbox,
(P.O. Box 68251 Schaumburg, IL. 60168-0251) or
- Paid online thru paypal at www.n9rjv.org

SARC - New Membership - Dues Schedule		
	Full Rate	Reduced Rate
July	\$30.00	\$25.00
August	\$27.50	\$22.92
September	\$25.00	\$20.83
October	\$22.50	\$18.75
November	\$20.00	\$16.67
December	\$17.50	\$14.58
January	\$15.00	\$12.50
February	\$12.50	\$10.42
March	\$10.00	\$8.83
April	\$7.50	\$6.25
May	\$5.00	\$4.17
June	\$2.50	\$2.08

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Wednesday, April 2, 2008**

Board members present:

Kent Ochs, W9KAO

Cliff Sowka, K9QD

Club Officers & Committee Chairpersons present:

Bruce Widenhoeffer, KB9JEJ

John Bettasso, AJ9ON

Mark Deelsnyder, KB9VHA

Bob McIntyre, AF9U

The meeting was called to order by Mark Deelsnyder at 7:15 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report –Cliff Sowka reported that a bank account balance of \$1,327.55. The club insurance bill has been paid.

Secretary's Report – Bob McIntyre confirmed that the ARRL Club information was updated on the ARRL web site. He is preparing an article about Field Day for the May RHG.

President's Report - John Betasso said the club answering machine has been set up again and is working.

John attended the McHenry County Wireless Association presentation of the DXpedition to Scarborough Reef. John spoke to Bill Zapel about the IDOT trip and Bill will get back to us with a date for the tour.

Membership Report – no report.

Public Service - The MS Walk will be held on May 4th and volunteers are needed.

RHG Newsletter/Publicity – Mark Deelsnyder said that everything is going smoothly with the newsletter.

Repeater System – the repeater is working.

Construction Projects – Saturday construction meetings will be ending this month.

VE Testing/eBay Sales - no report.

Social Activities – Kim Bettasso has asked that everyone bring snacks or cookies to the club meeting.

Nets – A new net script is now ready and available on the club web site. It was used on last week's net.

Education – no report.

Fox Hunts – Bruce Widenhoeffer said that Club Fox hunts can start again since the weather is warmer.

Meeting Programs – no report.

Em-Comm – No report tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

REVIEW OF RECURRING CLUB CALENDAR

Field day plans need to be prepared for June.

The Field Day permit will be submitted for the Field Day site.

Articles may now be submitted for the May RHG.

Elimination of the repeater phone line was discussed.

Monthly phone line costs can be saved if a radio link can be established for control purposes. The feasibility of establishing a link was discussed and will continue to be explored.

NEW BUSINESS

A sticker will be added to the RHG and sent out when membership renewals are coming up in July.

A schedule showing pro-rated renewals for new members will be posted on the website as well as shown on the RHG sticker.

There was some discussion about how to reactivate the Em-comm committee again. Establishing a calling tree and how to generate renewed interest in this area was discussed. A definition for the Em-comm committee chair was also discussed. A list of duties needs to be established for the committee chairman position.

Establishment of a budget for the next fiscal year – Cliff Sowka presented a proposed club budget at the meeting. Discussion followed and the budget will be presented again next month with some minor revisions.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting closed at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Bob McIntyre, AF9U Secretary

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club, Inc
Thursday, April 17, 2008**

President John Bettasso , AJ9ON called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Introductions were given by each

member and the question for the evening was: "Will you be attending the Dayton Hamvention?"

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's report – Cliff Sowka, K9QD reported that the club has a balance of \$1,366.71 as of the meeting and all bills are paid. The additional \$75.00 amount reported last month has been accounted for by Cliff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

John Bettasso asked for a motion to accept Treasurer's and Secretary's report as printed in the April RHG . Motion was made by Roger Ryan and seconded by David Dietrich. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Net Control – Rob N9MVO reported that there are just a few openings for a guest operator but otherwise we're all set. The guest operator openings are on the 2nd Thursday

Membership – David Dietrich, KC9EHQ - Reported receiving one email off of the club reflector. He checked voice mail and was contacted by cub scout pack leader. The club location for field day has been put in the ARRL locator.

Repeater – The repeater is operational.

Public Service Events – Dave, N9DAV reported the upcoming MS Walk is scheduled for May 4th. On June 7th the Grand Geneva Tour-de-Cure and the Chicago 200 relay will be run on the same day. Neil Ormos is coordinating the Chicago 200. The Schaumburg Triathlon will be on Sunday, July 13th and several volunteers will be needed. The Hoffman Estates 4th of July Parade is also coming up.

Education Chair – Harry K9DHT reported he is setting up a meeting with those who volunteered to teach. Neil Ormos has stated that there are a number of people wanting to attend an amateur radio training class.

Em-Comm – No report. John Bettasso said that the job is still open and we are looking for a new Em-Comm chairman.

Program Chair – No Report tonight.

Fund Raising - No report. The club is looking for someone to fulfill this role

VE Testing – No report tonight.

Website – The new club dues renewal schedule will be posted.

Construction Project – Bill Smead, K9IIM, reported that

the construction project will be held on Saturday April 26. Bill is looking for someone to take over the chairmanship position. Saturday sessions will start again in September.

RHG – Mark Deelsnyder is looking for articles about your shack, items for sale, or any ham radio subject you are interested in writing about.

Fox Hunting – Bruce Widenhoeffer - Bruce reported that there will be a fox hunt coming up this next Saturday. Details should be coming out in an email on the SARC reflector.

Field Day – John Betasso made a general request for volunteers and listed several areas where help is needed. The Field Day permit is currently being applied for.

NEW BUSINESS

Milan Bagel has contributed a few kits to the club which may be sold or auctioned to benefit the club. This evening one unit was given out as a general door prize.

For tonight's program – A presentation was given by David Dietrich, KC9EHQ – The topic was "Basic communication procedures for emergency communication".

Roger Ryan, W9RDR, proposed to the club that we might be able to have Bob Galvin as a potential guest speaker. Discussion continued and it was decided to request him for the next meeting if he was available.

John Bettasso talked about general membership dues and a proposed change for pro-rating new members who joined after July.

David Dietrich suggested we begin focusing on Field Day planning.

A motion to close the meeting was given and seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was closed at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Bob McIntyre, AF9U Secretary



VE TESTING RESULTS

NEXT EXAM:
May 3, 2008
 Park District CRC ; Sr. Lounge.

RESULTS FOR April 5, 2008, TEST SESSION:

CLASS	NUMBER TESTED	NEW LICENSE or UPGRADE
Technician	3	2
General	1	1
Extra	1	1
	5	4

NEW LICENSES:

******TECHNICIAN******

Lee Kinkade KC9NJU
 Pat O'Donnell KC9NJV

******EXTRA******

Kelly Martin AB9RF

UPGRADES:

******GENERAL******

Cynthia Wolta KC9MRQ

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.

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 four 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.

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



**Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club
 Monthly Treasurer's Report
 April 2008**

Beginning Balance	\$1,365.55
Expenses	
RHG Printing	\$41.60
Total Expenses	\$41.60
Deposits	
Dues Receipts	\$60.00
Coffee Fund Transfer to General Account	\$50.76
50/50 Event	\$7.00
Total Receipts	\$117.76
Total Cash On Hand; All Bills Paid	\$1,441.71

New Member Packet Update

The SARC New Member packet has been updated by David - KC9EHQ. Please contact David or any club officer / Board member for instructions on how to download it from the internet if your interested.

2008 SARC OFFICERS

President: John Bettasso	AJ9ON 224 805-0342
Vice Pres.: Phil Sawicki	N9IQ
Secretary: Bob McIntyre	AF9U
Treasurer: Cliff Sowka	K9QD
Director: Bill Smead	K9IIM 847 934-1817
Director: Cliff Sowka	K9QD
Director: Jim Kempe	KC9LWO
Director: Bruce Widenhoefer	KB9JEJ
Director: Mark Deelsnyder	KB9VHA 847 885-3157

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



Deliver To:



Thursday Night 9:00 Net

S.A.R.C. Repeater

145.230 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 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.

The Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club publishes the Radio Hill Gazette monthly.

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SARC Home Page URL

<http://n9rjv.org>

