



The Radio Hill Gazette

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

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From the Editor

Welcome to this month's issue of the RHG. Field Day is just around the corner and plans have been underway for a couple months. This for me will be my first Field Day as a new Ham. I'll be manning the GOTA tent with Dirk Smith. I know I'll be trying to make as many contacts as possible, but I'm really interested in showing to the general public some of the facets of our hobby. In a couple of weeks I'll be doing a short presentation at my son's Boy Scouts meeting about amateur radio, and will also be telling them to stop by our field day to get on the air. I'm hoping a few might show up to the event.

For the GOTA tent, I'm planning to show off some of the different ways with which to communicate using computers and digital modes, along with SSB. We'll have some Raspberry Pi's to show low cost computer kits and how they can be used in ham radio. Another aspect for the technician class license holders that I can show is the unique capabilities of Yaesu's WiresX and its ability to talk around the world on a HT or mobile 2m/440 rig. For those not familiar it's a digital mode that uses C4FM digital, the same digital mode used on Yaesu's Fusion repeaters, which is similar in how DMR or DStar works.

With so many things to do in this hobby, I encourage all of you to spread the word to the sons, daughters, and grandchildren. Who knows this could lead some youngster into a fulfilling engineering or computer career.

In this month's edition, I have an article submitted by Dirk Smith on calling CQ. For the more experienced this might seem like a no brainer, however for the new hams this could be very helpful in making that first contact on HF a success.

Next month I plan to do a write up on a Raspberry Pi that I built that has a digital oscilloscope, is very portable, has a touch screen, and can run FLDigi on a Linux Operating System.

Also I'm looking for article submissions. Anything related to amateur radio, like reviews of software or how to's on using software, kit building, restoration of ham radio or antiques. So if you have something you thought was really cool, please share with the group. You can sent it to k9kqx@arri.net in any Word, OpenOffice, or LibreOffice format

Mike K9KQX



From the President

With the onset of warmer weather comes public service season. I'm glad to say that we had an uneventful MS walk early on a recent Sunday morning. If you missed that and are would like to help out in the future please consider the Hoffman Estates Fourth of July Parade and the Schaumburg Triathlon, both in July. We also support the Chicagoland Marathon, which will take place by the time this article is published. Thanks to all who have helped out or that have signed up to help in the future.

If you've enjoyed public service events there are plenty of other events that you can help out at that are not sponsored by the club. In June there's the 100 mile bike ride "Tour de Cure." The "North Shore Century" is another 100 mile ride that takes place in September. And there's the Chicago Marathon in October. I have personally worked each of these events at least once and can assure you they are very rewarding.

I would like to point out the vast amount of technical knowledge that is held by the members of the club and just how willing so many of our club members are to help apply their knowledge. You may be familiar with this with the occasional technical updates of our repeaters at club meetings, or maybe you join us for Tech Net on air Tuesday Evenings at 7:30pm. I encourage you to reach out to fellow members through the repeater, on SARC-All, or directly by making use of the recently published club roster and contact list.

During my three years as a club member I was grateful to receive in-person help and loans of equipment on several occasions. When I first assembled my station former member Anthony AB9YC brought his antenna analyzer to my QTH and helped me through the process of cutting my dipoles to the correct length. A few years later I moved and again needed to make some adjustments to my antennas. This time Al KD9FIA graciously loaned me an antenna analyzer and I went through the antenna tuning process again. And I was glad to be able to help out Paul KD9FNM recently by showing him my station and discussing how I overcame a lot of the challenges that he is facing now as he sets up his first HF station. It would not be right of me to leave off the countless questions that so many club members have answered for me at club events, on the air or through SARC-All. Every one of those interactions has helped me to hone my operating skills and my station.

The expertise that I personally bring to the club is with the computer-radio interfacing, as well as the hardware and logging software that goes along with it. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about this part of the hobby. Or use SARC-All to find members with other areas of expertise.

Matt
AC9IG



Renew your SARC Membership by June 30

Dues must be paid by June 30. Please pay through the web site at www.n9rjv.org, in person at the next club meeting, or by mail to P.O. Box 68251 Schaumburg, IL 60168-0251. Please note your call sign on your check if paying by mail.

Dues are \$25. If you are a full time student, active military or over age 65 you can take advantage of our reduced rate of \$20.

Your dues help support various club activities and equipment. Some of this includes the upcoming Field Day at the end of June, some of the equipment and storage cabinets available at the construction project, the repeaters, and miscellaneous pieces of hardware that support other operating events such as SARC in the Park and public service events.

Note that the board recently voted to simplify the dues structure. It now reads: Membership dues are to be paid by June 30. Dues paid in April - December will cover the member through June 30 of the following year. Dues paid January - March will only cover the member through June 30 of the same year.

What this means to you is you get the most bang-for-your buck if you pay between April (right now) and the end of June. Pro-rating of dues has been eliminated to greatly simplify accounting and to encourage members to make payments on time.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to another great year of club-sponsored activities.

Construction Project

Gary N9VU: On June 10th we will be having a one off Construction meeting to test out all the field day equipment. Please bring your equipment in to test, and any operators using club equipment that they aren't familiar with should attend to get familiar with operation.

Miscellaneous activities / updates

SARC in the Park - Contact Rob, N9MVO for more details. Generally, SARC in the park is held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, assuming weather permits. It is held at the Schaumburg Recreation Center, same location as club meetings, in the North Lot where two small shelters are. Time is from 8am till about noon. Bring whatever you want to try for portable operations. Also please bring your own power source, battery power is recommended due to the short event duration and quicker setup time over generators. Solar power might be more difficult due to the numerous trees near the shelter.



440 Repeater updates

Leo Ribordy N9NBH - The fusion repeater, 444.125 Mz, which is located on top of St Alexis, is back on the air. With the help of Kent, W9KAO, we installed the 70CM antenna that we were using on the Plum Grove Water Tower. Using a bird watt meter we measured 9 watts at the antenna. For the antenna geeks, we had very little reflected power. Meaning the meter was just moving off the 0 watt scale. So the exercise for the club members is to access the repeater from your home QTH and let me know if you were successful and how much noise you hear. Also let us know what town you are in. This should give us an idea on what our coverage for the repeater will be.

Thank you.

73 N9NBH/W9KAO

Fusion / WiresX primer

Mike K9KQX – While we're on the subject Fusion repeaters, for those unfamiliar with Fusion, it's a proprietary Digital Mode that uses C4FM encoding. The repeaters can work in either digital or analog mode. But for digital mode to work, you need a newer Yaesu radio with those capabilities built in, otherwise a standard FM transceiver will work fine you just can't listen to a Digital mode QSO. IF you have a compatible Yaesu radio, look for the DX button, press it to cycle through 4 modes of operation.

1. DN is Digital Narrow bandwidth, allows for both voice and data to be transmitted
2. VW is Digital Voice Wide, higher quality voice, no data is transmitted
 - o Note the two modes above won't decode an FM analog signal. If you have it in either of these you may see your signal meter move, but you won't hear any audio if it's being transmitted in analog FM.
3. FM, is strictly FM and won't decode any digital signal. If it's in this mode and there's a digital signal, you'll hear the typical digital noise of a Dstar or DMR signal.
4. **DN or FM with a LINE** above it. This forth mode is the automatic mode. Which means if you leave it in this mode your Yaesu radio will automatically decode whatever signal is coming in. This is the preferred mode to keep your radio in. Its supposed to transmit in the same mode that was last received, but I've found that to not always be consistent. So, if I hear a digital QSO and decide to join in, I'll flip my rig over to DN or VW mode to force the radio into transmitting into digital.

For more information on Fusion please visit <https://systemfusion.yaesu.com/what-is-system-fusion/>

A subset to Fusion is WiresX. WiresX allows the linking of repeaters or simplex nodes over the internet into rooms. Our repeater is not WiresX enabled, but there are repeaters and simplex nodes in the area that are. A list of these can be found here

https://www.yaesu.com/jp/en/wires-x/id/active_node.php

You'll need to read your manual for exact details on how to connect to a WiresX node with your particular radio, but once connected, and assuming your read the manual, you can search for nodes, connect to those remote nodes or rooms and then proceed to



have a QSO across the country or around the world. I myself have a simplex node at my QTH, and find it fun to connect using my FT-2DR from around my home. I can usually connect up to 4 miles away, which makes it fun while walking or riding a bike to talk to someone in England with an HT. Anyone within a 3 to 4 mile range of Lake and Gary ave is more than welcome to try to connect to my simplex node. Its running on 147.440Mhz, It times out after 30 minutes and reverts to no room, I do this to prevent unnecessary band usage. So if you connect, search for a node(America Link and MNWIs are both very popular nodes)

For more information on WiresX please check out

https://www.hamoperator.com/Hamoperator/WiRES-X_Bible/WiRES-X_Bible.html

Field Day Activites for 2017 - This years Field day will be held on June 24th at the Medinah park district west of Meachum Rd on Thorndale(just north ¼ mile from Irving Park road and the railroad tracks in Medinah. Plans are to test all radios at a construction meeting on June 10th to confirm all equipment is working and that the operators know how to use the equipment. Kent Ochs has kindly stepped in to help out as food captain for this years event. I believe we are still looking for someone to help with renting a truck or if someone has an enclosed trailer that could be used for the event. We need assistance transporting equipment from storage to the site.

Public Service - Please contact Rob N9MVO, on volunteering for these upcoming events in July

- Hoffman Estates Fourth of July Parade
- Schaumburg Triathlon, sometime in July.



Net Check-ins_ – Gary N9VU

SARC Net Check Ins For 05/04/17

Total Check Ins: 21 (including net control)

Total Traffic: 1

Stations Checking In:

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| W9RKK | |
| KB9RGU | Jim |
| AC9IG | Matt |
| KD9HQP | Nick |
| KD9HLW | Byron |
| KD9HOK | Greg |
| K9KQX | Mike |
| N9LQ | Joel |
| WQ9M | Mark |
| N9MBH | Leo (checked in with traffic) |
| W9DXR | Bob |
| N9IMI | |
| N9POL | Peter |
| AB9CB | Burt |
| W9KAO | Kent |
| AC9EM | Steve |
| N9BLP | Ray |
| KD9EPZ | Al |
| KE7TTN | Scott (visiting town) |
| N9MVO | Rob |
| N9VU | Gary/Net Control |

Net concluded at 2033 CST.

Thanks to all who participated, and have a nice week,
Gary/N9VU



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 | 4 | 4 |
| General | 4 | 0 |
| Extra | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 8 | 4 |

NEW LICENSES:

****TECHNICIAN****

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Gary E Baker | KD9IPE |
| Jeffrey A Johnson | KD9IPF |
| Jeffrey A Van Buren | KD9IPG |
| Bryan D Mc Mahan | KD9IPH |

****GENERAL****

****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.

Calling CQ and Announcing your Call Sign

By Dirk Smith K9DFS

While looking for something else I ran across a video on YouTube on how to call SSB CQ, Jim W6LG does a good job explaining several different scenarios on how to structure the CQ call. (YouTube Link attached) For those that are working ARRL and other awards this might be very helpful. My observation has been that many Ham's say their "CALL SIGN" very quickly and sometimes not even phonetically. So it is very difficult to pick up the entire call the first or second time, sometimes it takes 4-5 times to listen to finally get it correct. It's a habit since we all know our own call signs that is tattooed into the back of our brain, we assume everyone should pick it up quickly. One should not be afraid to ask for the call sign slowly, phonetically and then confirm. At times we are mobile so that adds another dynamic challenge, multi-tasking driving and listening. (Gum chewing might come into play as well)

During Field days, in a pile-up it gets even more difficult when everyone steps all over each other, we tend to pick out the strong signals first and then go after the weaker signals. In Jim's video it is suggested calling CQ for 30 seconds. I start out with minimal 15 seconds if band conditions are okay, but if they are bad I move to 25-30 seconds CQ's. We have to remember not everyone has radios that have waterfalls to see all our transmissions, so Hams' tune up-down the bands listening, so a short CQ may get easily missed. If nothing is heard the operator keeps moving through the band and your CQ will not be heard.

Suggested CQ Hints:

- **IMPORTANT:** Always ask if the HF frequency is in use !!
 - 1. "Is this frequency in use"? (Give your call sign)
Wait 5-15 seconds
 - 2. "Is this frequency in use"? (Give your call sign)
Wait 5-15 seconds
 - 3. "Nothing heard, (Give your call sign)
- Call CQ for 15-30 Seconds
- Speak slowly
- Give your call sign slowly and also phonetically
- Be persistent !!!! It may take you 10-15 minutes before someone answers your CQ.

Suggested Hints for giving or receiving Call sign:

- Say your call sign slowly then do it phonetically...
- Ask for the call sign again if not sure you got it right.. Don't be "Mic" shy !!!!
 - Do not be afraid to ask several times, after all you want the QSO properly recorded in your log and receive the confirmation. Might be an area or country you need for the award you are going after.

Suggestions for successful SSB FD QSO's:

- There is lots of activity and QRM, listen for a few minutes pick out some call signs or listen for others calling CQ or you hear QRZ. Then pounce on that call, there are a lot of stations calling at the same time so be very clear when giving your call sign. I also



wait till a number call in then jump in, hoping the last few get picked up, but not always the case, stronger signals tend to be picked up first. Just Don't give up..!!

- Make it a short transmission, exchange call sign "CLASS" – "SECTION", confirm and wish them Good Luck !! Start all over...
- Calling CQ yourself, **"CQ CQ CQ K9DFS Kilo 9 Delta Foxtrot Sierra Calling CQ and standing by"**
- A very basic logging program works well for FD, N3FJP for Contest is one of the best programs, simple to enter and watches for duplicates in the same band.
- Having a Logging partner is a big plus, both should have headsets to confirm Call-Class-Section.
 - I have seen operators log calls every 15 seconds, that is 4 QSO's per minute and 240 contacts per hours. But it is very difficult to keep that pace when band conditions change or there is less activity on the air.

Suggestion for Digital QSO's:

- Digital is a fun mode to work, there are days when nothing is going on, but then there are times with 25W output you get heard around the world.
- There are many types of Digital modes most common is RTTY, PSK31 and JT65. I suggest start with PSK 31.
- I use FLDIGI v4.04, (FREE) (but that is a preference per operator), set up your MACROS so at a push of a button you can send your message. FLDIGI has 16 Macro buttons and easy to set up/configure. Took me less than 30 minutes to set up-configure and 15 minutes later I got my first Digital QSO. Depending on your radio you might need a USB Signal Link or equivalent to interface between your radio and laptop.
- Now what gets interesting is when a pile up occur, by that I mean 3-4 people call you at the same time, you see them on the waterfall. HINT: Set up one macro to tell others to stand by for a minute. Just stay calm and take one at a time. Don't forget to log the QSO. Normal signal report is "599".
- This mode is also something the younger generation has interest in. The FD GOTA tent is a good method to showcase that mode. BTW don't worry so much about your typing speed, that is where the macros come in.
- Mike K9KQX, even build a touch screen Raspberry pie with FLDIGI, to operate more remotely and replace the laptop. Very slick kit, nice Job Mike. This will be at SARC FD in the GOTA tent.

In Closing: Whether it is CW, SSB or Digital modes calling CQ is fun and part of the hobby. What I find is most people are "MIC" shy or are afraid they cannot get the other call sign right. I say "Don't worry about that", even if you have to ask 2-3 to get the call right, so what, I hear that on the air all the time. New Ham's, I also suggest to get involved with "OMISS .org" on 7.185 LSB, they are on the air every night. There you will get comfortable operating and they are a nice bunch of Net Control and Relay operators that will help you get comfortable. Check them out.



Ham Radio Basics--How to Call CQ--

Jim W6LG

6 months ago • 49,949 views

A video talking about calling CQ. And then, Jim calls CQ on 20 meters and W5IB answers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXHWfhgGZps>

PS: I did not touch on CQ'ing in the "CW" mode, because I still have my rookie horns to cut down, sorry.

Good Luck and Happy CQ'ing !!!

73'

Dirk ---K9DFS

SARC March Club Notes

Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting May 18, 2017

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

Attendees:

| | | | | | |
|---------------|--------|------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Dirk Smith | K9DFS | Matt Walsh | AC9IG | Cliff Sowka | K9QD |
| Roger Ryan | W9RDR | Frank Giampa | N9QPD | Kent Ochs | W9KAO |
| Steve Karson | AC9EM | Mike Sorensen | K9KQX | Burt Shultz | AB9CV |
| Bob McIntyre | W9DXR | Leo Ribordy | N9NBH | Dave Sims | K9KDM |
| Bob Langsfeld | WB9TZC | Rick Cook | KC9PLO | David Hug | KD9CVI |
| Danny Kafka | KD9HIL | DJ Traxler | WA9UBR | Charles Fregeau | N5HSR |
| Don Smith | K9UD | James Richardson | AC9PH | Ken Krzywicki | KD9HIJ |
| Kevin Shin | K9AAB | Gloria Antonelli | | Carl Peterson | KB9WCA |
| Paul Burkett | KD9FMN | Dennis C. Calvey | KD9HIK | Michael Deacon | KD9IOG |
| Vick Agos | KD9HQP | | | | |

Treasurer's report: Chris Brewer AC9GN not present but we have is BOD report from two weeks ago: Beginning balance for the month was \$4,926.16. Income was \$.00. Expense was \$60 of which \$50 was for our data-line and \$10 for Illinois Corporate Annual Report. Ending balance is \$4,866.16. Paid membership is currently 83.

President's Report: Matt AC9IG Wishes to thank Dirk K9DFS and Chris AC9GN for publishing the current Roster for the membership.

Field Day Update

We are in need of a truck driver for field day. Matt transmitted after-meeting update (sic) "one of our club members offers to pull a trailer for us to help move equipment for field day. To



make this work, we need an enclosed trailer. If anyone in the club has access to an enclosed trailer that will be available the weekend of June 23 please contact me immediately. The club is in desperate need of some type of transportation for all of our equipment to make field day a success. Your help would be greatly appreciated.”

Had a good organizational meeting few weeks ago to work out many details. The tent captains are working to assemble their station equipment ahead of field day. Club budgeted and placed an order for a new tuner and equipment arrived. There will be a bonus Construction Project on **June 10** at the usual time so that all field day equipment (excluding antennas) will be tested into dummy loads. Please join us to help resolve any problems that may arise or to familiarize yourself with the equipment at the station that you will be operating.

Matt AC9IG attended the MS event and found the organizational efforts to be fine with no anomalies.

SARC Repeaters: Kent W9KAO Fusion @ Hospital site: Hardline replacement finished and signal is now going to be as good as it gets. Looking for club members to continue to provide signal reports to help us determine overall coverage.

2M Repeater at Barrington Road/Schaumburg Road: Hearing crackling noises on the system during high wind so the antenna may have to be replaced.

Public Service: Rob N9MVO not present but provided previously: July 4th parade will be originating on Hassle Road. Barrington Square Apartments area traffic planning to expected to be better than in past years.

Most Important Club Service Event: Schaumburg Triathlon will require our support and usually occurs a few weeks after the 4th of July. This is the most important event for our club to support because the Park District provides so much for us in facility/rent-free spaces (meeting rooms, basement of Tennis Club for Construction Project) for our activities. It is important that we reciprocate with supporting their events.

Secretary's Report: Cliff Sowka K9QD: Meeting Minutes approved as published in the RHG.

RHG: Mike Sorensen K9KQX needs articles for the Radio Hill Gazette (RHG) publication. Traditional deadline for article submission is the evening of the third Thursday of the month (tonight) in order to allow enough time to prepare the final issue.

Construction Project: Gary N9VU not present. No summer meetings with resumption to occur the fourth week of September.

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

Education: Leo N9NBH reports plans for a fall TECHNICIAN Class. He will begin soliciting volunteer instructors and believes about 5 will suffice. Burt Shultz AB9CV is available to join our Instructor staffing.



VE Testing: Steve Karson AC9EM reports NEXT EXAM is June 3rd at Schaumburg Park District CRC.

Results for May 6th, 2017 test session:

| NUMBER | NEW LICENSE | |
|------------|-------------|---|
| Technician | 4 | 4 |
| General | 4 | 0 |
| Extra | 0 | 0 |
| ----- | | |
| Total: | 8 | 4 |

- Gary E Baker KD9IPE
- Jeffrey A Johnson KD9IPF
- Jeffrey A Van Buren KD9IPG
- Bryan D Mc Mahan KD9IPH

Nets: Matt AC9IG reports the first Thursday of the month was hosted by Gary N9VU. TechNet is Tuesdays 7:30PM. Matt is keeping a list of attendees to award \$25 ARRL participation gift certificates during Field Day.

EMCOMM: Bob Langsfeld WB9TZC. Plans prepared and organizational meeting with the Fire Department held at the EOC last week. SARC members need to be in place Sunday morning before road closure 6AM. There are 16 radio operators on the Incident Command and since Bob is leaving for Dayton tonight, he can't change the assignments at this late time. Operators are sure to introduce themselves to the station staff so they understand our role.

Programs: Cliff Sowka K9QD: Mel Luxenberg's W9FRT RADIO PROPAGATION materials were presented by K9QD and Mike Sorensen K9KQX discussed an Oscilloscope with show-and-tell demonstration.

June's program will be Field Day planning and I am in need for a July program.

Ebay Sales: Gary N9VU not present.

Recurring Calendar: Chris AC9GN checking PO Box weekly.

New business: Kent Ochs W9KAO will be our food captain for Field Day. Looking for menu suggestions: Burgers won the selection. No breakfast is planned. Bringing a dish to pass will be fine.

Matt AC9IG announced Russ Schmidt KC9NUV has been appointed by the Board of Directors to serve as Vice President for the remainder of Matt's term.



Bob WB9TZO attended the hospital's emergency management meeting today and learned there is no longer anyone specifically assigned to the role. Bob demonstrated Fusion coverage from the executive offices and hospital management stated they're very pleased.

Dirk K9DFS Reports our Website needs updating with the new officers.

Old business: New Membership Dues procedure is now implemented:

Chris AC9GN will now manage our new dues policy according to the new guidelines:

- *Membership dues are to be paid by Jun 30.*
- *Dues paid in Apr - Dec will cover the member through Jun 30 of the following year.*
- *Dues paid Jan - Mar will only cover the member through Jun 30 of the same year.*

Move to adjourn 7:43PM. So moved.

Submitted: May 19, 2017 Cliff Sowka K9QD 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 Business Meeting May 3, 2017

Kent Ochs W9KAO Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Attendees:

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|---------------|--------|-------------|-------|
| Dirk Smith | K9DFS | Matt Walsh | AC9IG | Cliff Sowka | K9QD |
| Gary Bernstein | N9VU | Kevin Willard | KB9QVX | Roger Ryan | W9RDR |
| Frank Giampa | N9QPD | Ted Lester | AB9SZ | Kent Ochs | W9KAO |
| Leo Ribordy | N9NBH | Russ Schmidt | KC9NUV | | |

Treasurer's report: Chris Brewer AC9GN reports: Beginning balance for the month was \$4,866.16, Income: \$560, Expense: \$530.58 consisting of \$50 for data line and \$480.58 for repeater maintenance. Ending balance: \$4,895.58. Paid membership is currently 83.

President's Report: Matt Walsh AC9IG Regarding our current practice for General Meeting Agenda: noticed we don't *Ask an Elmer* and have moved away from some other traditional agenda items over time. Matt is thinking about what items are relegated to the general meeting and what items should be relegated to the BOD agenda with the goal of allowing more social interaction during the monthly Business Meetings. Matt may also reach out ahead of meetings in order to help obtain membership inputs on items of interest should be included in our agenda.

SARC Repeater: Kent W9KAO Machine is working. Water Tower Painting finished by end of May but the landscaping is probably going to be a mess for weeks after the equipment departs.

Fusion @ Hospital site: Hardline replacement for the surprisingly lossy Andrew coax can proceed with weather permitting this coming Saturday. We already have a previously-used lightning suppresser equipped with N-connectors.

Public Service Rob N9MVO not present but asked BOD remind of our public Service Event scheduled for May 7th in support of the MS Walk at the Schaumburg Baseball stadium.

Rob's previous count indicates the following people signed up:

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|-------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| Bill Davies | K9WKD | Matt Walsh | AC9IG | Bob Benwitz | N9JAX |
| Jim Campbell | KB9RGU | Leo Ribordy | N9NBH | Phil McBride | WB9C |

Secretary's Report: Cliff Sowka K9QD: Meeting Minutes approved as published in the RHG.

RHG: Mike Sorensen K9KQX not present. Mike needs articles for the RHG.



Construction Project: Gary N9VU: Done for the season until September 23rd, the fourth Saturday of September.

VE Testing: Dirk Smith K9DFS reports testing 9 students with 8 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.

Education: Leo N9NBH reports plans for a fall TECHNICIAN Class. He will begin soliciting volunteer instructors and believes about 5 will suffice. Contact with the Schaumburg Library district in effort to return to the Hoffman Estates facility on Hassle Road.

Nets: Matt AC9IG has taken charge of the Nets. Gary N9VU will be hosting the first Thursday of the Month. Matt is also keeping a list of attendees to award a random-drawn \$25 ARRL participation gift certificate during Field Day.

EMCOMM: Bob Langsfeld WB9TZC. Not Present but submitted the following:

No EM COMM Roundtable this month due to the Dayton Conflict.

May 21 Marathon still has some open spots to fill, the openings are for a second person assigned at water stations. People do need breaks and I would like to stick with the buddy system. Final approval of the Incident action Plan will be completed this week. An advance communications meeting will be held soon. The intent is to not have an early morning (5:30 am) briefing and have hams report to their assigned locations for a 6:45 roll call.

Twelve hams have completed the ARES form and have registered as ARES for the Schaumburg Township area. This gives ARES a head count when I do the ARES monthly reports.

Programs: Cliff Sowka K9QD: Mike Sorensen K9KQX offered to speak about a miniature oscilloscope he's obtained, and Mel Luxenberg W9FRT has prepared a PowerPoint on Propagation. It's possible we could host both presentations during the May meeting. The June Business Meeting will schedule our normal Presentation venue to be final discussion about Field Day planning.

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

Website: Dirk K9DFS and Kent Ochs W9KAO report James Richardson AC9PH connected with Bruce Widenhoefer KB9JEJ for proper access to our current provider; ascertain features to eliminate, features add. Our web hosting expenses may increase but there will be no development expense in creating this website for the club.

Recurring Calendar: Chris AC9GN is checking PO Box weekly. Insurance rider for Field Day is completed.



Old business: Vice President Appointment is open. Matt AC9IG moved and Gary N9VU seconded the appointment of Russ Schmidt KC9NUV to the office of Vice President. So moved. Congratulations Russ.

New business: Dirk K9DFS proposed we purchase a new AutoTuner for the club's Kenwood TS140 rig. Gary N9VU moved, Matt AC9IG seconded. \$300 now approved for an AutoTuner.

Dirk K9DFS purchased some shirts for Field Day through his friend and is offering them to club members at cost.

Field Day: Matt AC9IG will be making a list of non-radio items such as garbage bags, chairs, tables, etc. and still needs someone to handle the truck rental and logistics. Dirk K9DFS has received the insurance rider from Kent W9KAO and the Itasca Park District is now in receipt for our event.

Meeting adjourn 8:00PM.

Submitted: May 4, 2017 Cliff Sowka Secretary