

SARC

Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club

RHG May 2019 MS Walk – Sunday May 5th 2019

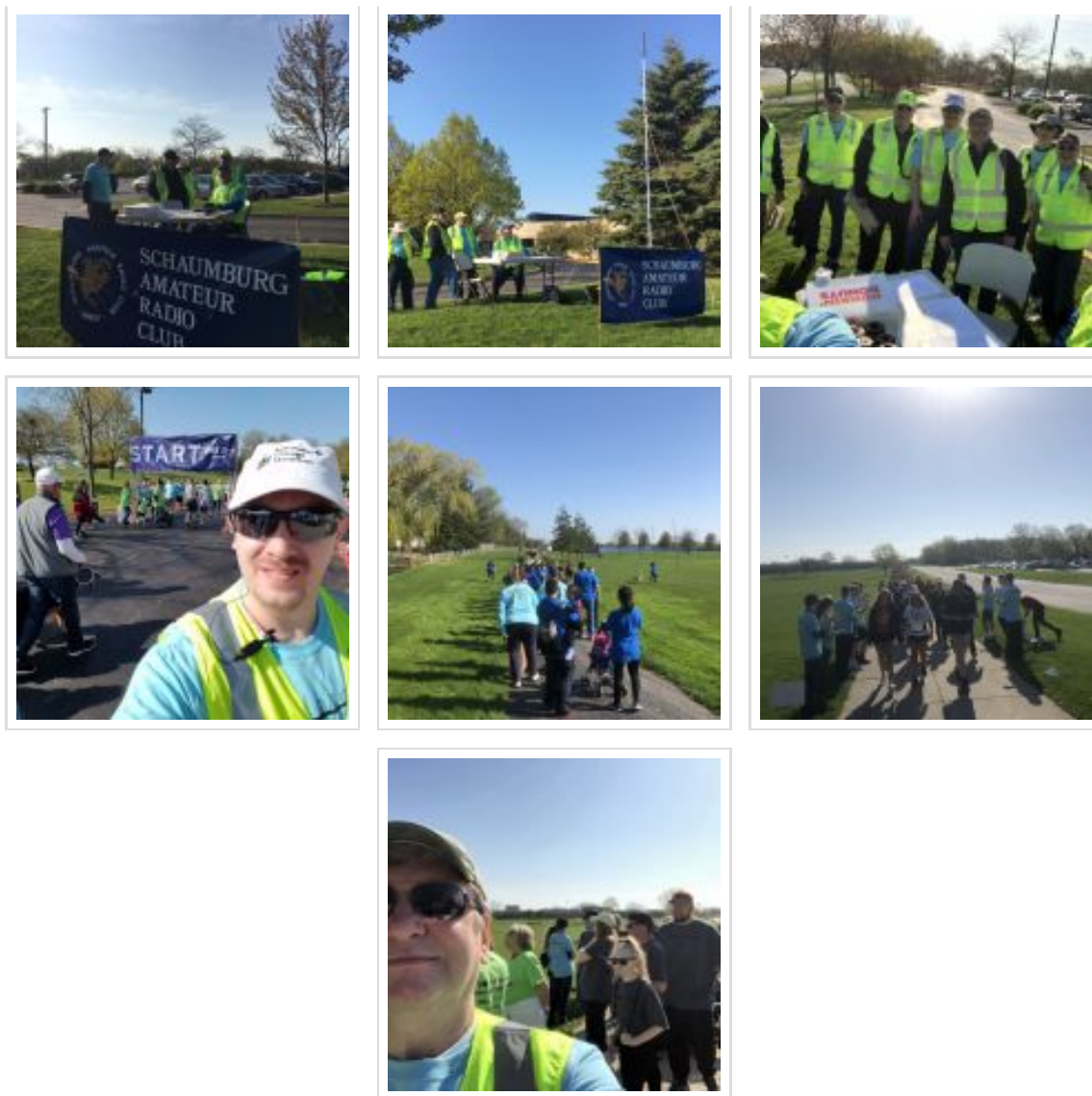
By: Mike Griffiths, KD9KMV

MS Walk – Roselle, IL – Sunday May 5th 2019

A number of SARC club members volunteered their time and skills on Sunday May 5th 2019, by providing valuable communication support for the 2019 MS Charity walk held in Roselle, IL.

The weather was most definitely on our side, with clear skies and real “spring like” temperatures.

Rob Glowacki, N9MVO setup the base station command center. Using 2m simplex, all the volunteers were able to communicate necessary traffic to aid the smooth running of this annually held charity walk. Due to the close proximity of the route, repeater use was not required, with our HT’s being more than sufficient for simplex operation range.



Some of the key functions included providing information to the organizers about maintaining adequate water station supplies to keep the participants hydrated, directing the walkers throughout the course, and keeping track of the progress of the walkers. Fortunately there were no situations requiring medical assistance.

Regarding tracking progress of the walkers, feedback from the main MS Walk event organizers conveyed that "...they were thoroughly impressed with how we kept track of the participants as the walk went on. They were especially grateful for our tracking of the last walkers on the course."

Quoting Matt (AC9IG), “We were the eyes and ears for their staff and everyone on the net did a great job of getting the right information through at the right time. “

Thanks to all the volunteers:

John	KD9KSH
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Bob	N9JAX
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Robert	W9RKK
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Jim	KB9RGU
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Edward	AC9SD
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Orson	NN9N
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Phil	WB9C
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Doug	W9YFC
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Bill	W9WEM
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Matt	AC9IG
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Daryl	KB9RHR
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Mike	KD9KMV
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Rob

N9MVO

On a personal note, this was my first Public Service event, and the level of skill and professionalism exhibited by all the volunteers made me proud to be a member of SARC.

Mike KD9KMV

SARC in the Park – Saturday May 11th 2019

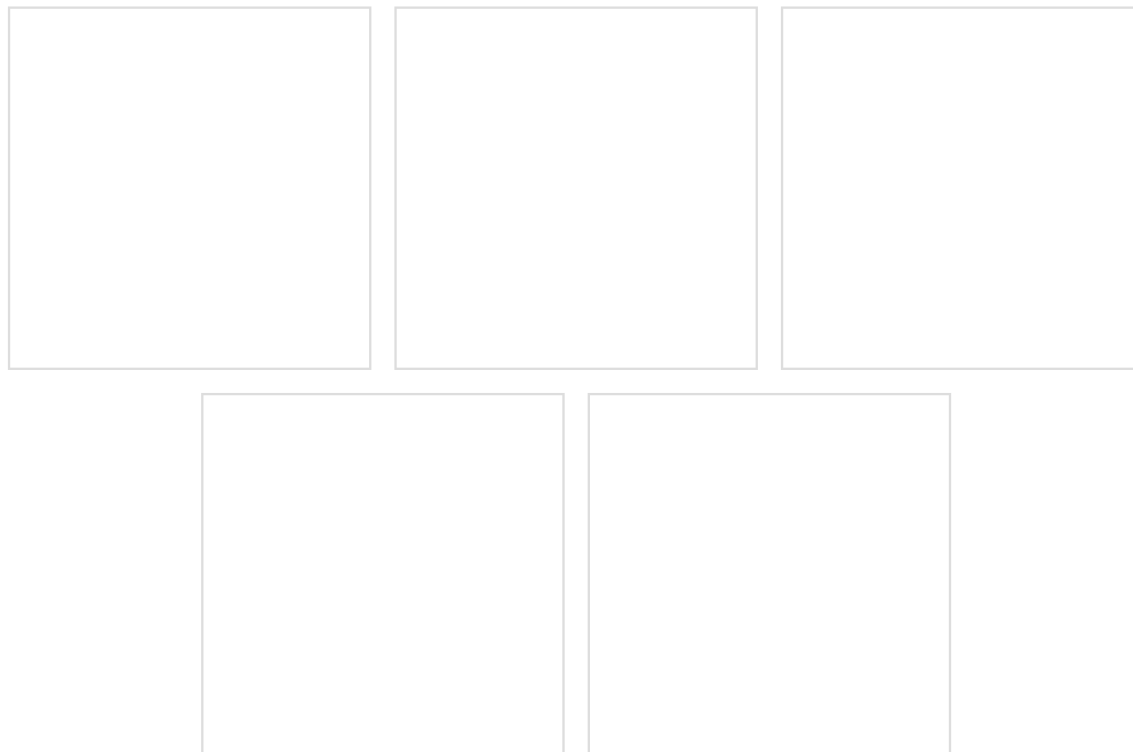
By: Mike Griffiths, KD9KMV

With Spring almost here (hi), comes the beginning of the [SARC in the Park](#) season. On Saturday May 11th, the [Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club](#) held their first one of 2019 in the grounds of the [Schaumburg Community Recreation Center](#).

WX was a little wet and unseasonably chilly, but it didn't deter people from coming out and we had a good flow of visitors from 8 am through to noon.

Several club members enjoy deploying their portable radio gear, and discussing ideas and experiences to improve upon their setups. [SARC in the Park](#) is the perfect place for this, and all members and non-members are welcome to join. This is usually held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, subject to weather conditions, with the exception of Field Day weekend.

Here are a few photos of members and the setups that were used.



Portable stations were deployed by Robert (W9RKK), Mike (KD9KMV), Rob (N9MVO) and Bob (W9DXR). Bill (KD9AUP) brought his 80 meter OCF dipole to try out.

Kevin (KD9MKD) brought his ZumSpot mobile digital hotspot to show us his Yaesu Fusion setup. Kevin also made his first ever HF contact under the KD9KMV Control Operator!

Remember, [SARC in the Park](#) is open to all members and non-members, so please come on out to the next one and enjoy some good chat, and of course play radio.

Mike, KD9KMV

Homebrew Magnetic Loop Antenna 40m – 20m

By: Mike Sorensen K9KQX

Over the past year or so, I've read many articles about magnetic loop antennas, questioning to myself are they really all that great compared to the typical dipole that I've been using for 3+ years. Well, I finally decided to give it a shot and build something from what I had on hand, and thanks to a quite a few club members was able to get a few missing parts.

To begin with, my design goals was to work 40m and 20m since those are the two primary bands I use for DX communications. I wanted the first iteration of the antenna to be simple, portable and obviously low cost as I sure didn't want to spend money only to find out this antenna stunk. Plus I wanted to run a bit more than just QRP.

So off I ran researching various sites and came across two that I found very helpful.

#1 <https://amrron.com/2015/07/24/home-made-high-power-magnetic-loop-antennas/>

#2 <http://www.66pacific.com/calculators/small-transmitting-loop-antenna-calculator.aspx>

The first one is where I got the ideas, the second one is an online calculator for trying out different scenarios, with input power, loop size, wire diameter, and

input power. I won't go into all the details of the theory but based on some simple rules of thumb:

1. Small loop is $1/5$ the size of the large loop. So if my large loop is 5 feet diameter $\times 1/5 = 1$ foot diameter of small loop
2. Larger main loop for lower frequency.
3. To avoid self-resonance, the large loop should be less than $1/4$ the wavelength. This limits the range you can effectively use the antenna at higher frequencies if you've optimized it to work at lower frequencies.
4. The highest efficiency design will mean that the large loop is $1/8$ to $1/4$ wavelength of the desired operating frequency. So basically the closer the operating frequency is to $1/4$ wavelength the more efficient, closer to $1/8$ less efficient
5. So basically the antenna ideally should be between $1/4$ and $1/8$ the wavelength. But even then in my instance I had to sacrifice on 40m and make it just a few inches shorter thus making it a bit less efficient, but still work on 20m.

Based on the following for 40M

Circumference of 16.5 feet

.5 inch diameter conductor

7.000Mhz as the lowest frequency

50 watts transmitter power

I get the following output from the calculator

Antenna efficiency: 28% (-5.5 dB below 100%) β not super-efficient, but results are impressive

Antenna bandwidth: 10.9 kHz \leftarrow this needs to be 3kHz or larger to operate SSB, 6kHz for AM

Tuning Capacitance: 146 pF \leftarrow take note of this, this is the high value for your variable cap

Capacitor voltage: 2,232 volts RMS β take note of this as this is the minimum voltage rating of your variable cap. Exceed this voltage with higher power will arc across the plates.

Resonant circulating current: 14.4 A

Radiation resistance: 0.034 ohms

Loss Resistance: 0.087 ohms

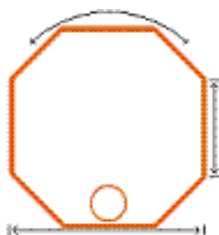
Inductance: 3.53 microhenrys

Inductive Reactance: 155 ohms

Quality Factor (Q): 641

Distributed capacity: 14 pF

Antenna “circumference”: 16.5 feet



Side length: 2.06 feet

Antenna diameter: 5.0 feet

Now calculating at the top end of 14M band

Circumference of 16.5 feet
.5 inch diameter conductor
14.350 Mhz as the highest frequency(FT8)
50 watts transmitter power

I get these results:

Antenna efficiency: 83% (-0.8 dB below 100%) <- this is considerably better than
40m

Antenna bandwidth: 65.7 kHz <- No problem here, gives you 65kHz space to
move around before retuning the capacitor

Tuning Capacitance: 35 pF <- take note of this, as this is the low value for your
variable cap

Capacitor voltage: 1,866 volts RMS <- Also notice a little less voltage requirement
for the cap when you operate at a higher frequency.

Resonant circulating current: 5.86 A

Radiation resistance: 0.605 ohms

Loss Resistance: 0.125 ohms

Inductance: 3.53 microhenrys

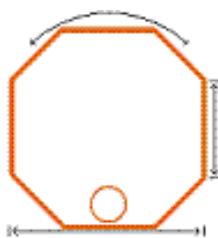
Inductive Reactance: 319 ohms

Quality Factor (Q): 218

Distributed capacity: 14 pF

Antenna “circumference”: 16.5 feet

Side length: 2.06 feet



Antenna diameter: 5.0 feet

With all that in hand, I needed to source a variable capacitor that could go from 35pf to 150pf, and hopefully handle 2.5kv, thanks to Ken Fields(KO9H) he had the perfect air variable cap for the job. An old EF Johnson 30pf to 150pf 23 plate variable cap. Voltage rating was a guess but based on others I found on the internet it was probably between 2.5kv and 3.5kv. I conservatively guessed 2.5kv

As for materials, well you could use any coax, hardline, Helix, copper pipe you can find. But a few things I noticed, the larger the diameter, the narrower the operating bandwidth, and the higher the capacitor voltage. Efficiency does go up though,

Using the figures for 40m but with a 1.5 inch diameter Helix cable you can see some drastic changes.

My efficiency goes from 28% to 54%

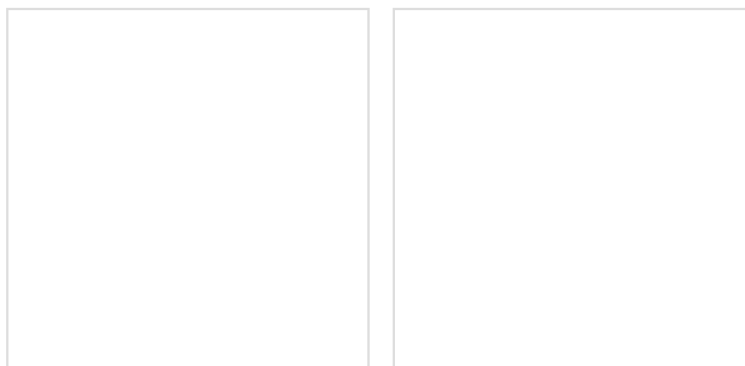
Antenna Bandwidth though goes from 10.9khz down to 4.34khz,, that's pretty darn narrow for SSB operation

Capacitor voltage goes from 2.3kv to 4kv, thus you'll need to reduce power, or get a much more expensive variable capacitor.

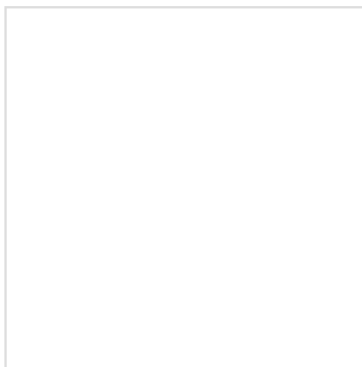
As for parts list, this is what I ended up using:

1. 16.3 feet of old .5 inch Aluminum Hardline for large loop thanks to Mel Luxemburg (W9FRT)
2. 3.12 feet of RG8 for the small loop
3. 3 to 1 gear reducer thanks to Bill Crocket (KD9AUP)
4. Air Variable Capacitor EF Johnson 30pf to 150pf thanks to Ken Field (KO9H)
5. 6"x12"x10" plastic enclosure thanks to Dirk Smith (W0RI)
6. Two N type Bulk head connectors to hook up large loop on side of box KD9AUP donated
7. One PL259 female chassis connector to solder the leads on the small loop.
8. Various 1/2" and 1-1/4" diameter PVC pipe from Menards
9. Two U bolts to attach the box to the main support
10. One tuning Knob I've had from a 1980's Harmon Kardon receiver in my junk box since High School.... Only took 30 years to find a use for it hehe.

Here are some photos of the finished product. Take note, I attempted to put eyelets on the spreader, but wouldn't ya know it, the N connectors wouldn't fit. Oh well, 3M super 88 to the rescue.



Above are the internals and the rear. I designed it so I could unscrew the top spreaders from the case to transport. There's enough room in the box for a gear reduction motor for remote operation in the future. N type connectors on the sides, are soldered to the outside shield from some RG8 coax(center insulator and conductor was remove to make more of a braid).



Here is the entire thing outside. Not a perfect circle, but it works just fine. Small loop just connect the outside shield to the center pin of the PL-259, and then on the other end connect the shield to the outside ground or shield of the PL-259 connector. Pretty amazing that short loop isn't a short when its tuned up properly.

Side spreaders are just pressed into the cross pipe so I can take it apart.

Now for the comparisons...

I chose to operate FT8 at 40 watts when I did this to show what stations heard my signal using <https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>

I think this will be more subjective than trying to convey signal reports on SSB, though I've made contacts just fine with it with 50 watts.

Mag Loop on 40M @ 40 watts around 10pm facing East West direction (click image to expand).

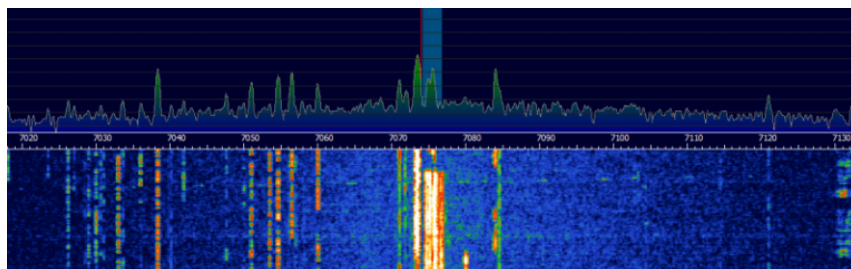


Now on my 40m Fan dipole @ 40 watts around 10:30pm, slightly inverted V at almost 30 feet (click image to expand).

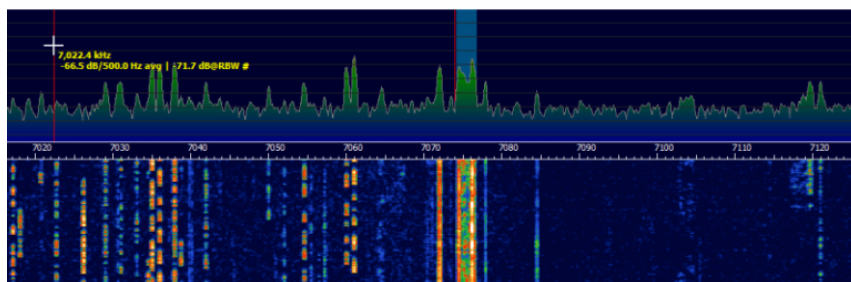


Reception Comparisons

Magnetic Loop Receive – Below is a view of the panadapter, notice how there is a pronounced peak where the antenna is tuned and as you deviate from that the received signal gets weaker (click image to expand).



Dipole Receive – Below is a screen shot of the panadapter, you can see that the receive is has a flat response across the entire band (click image to expand).



It's not surprising the Dipole does work better, but think about it, It took me a long time to get that up in the trees, tune it, maintain it during storms. I bet I worked on that thing over the course of a year to really finally have something I could raise and lower to maintain all through trial and error.

On the other hand, I spent a Friday night and a Sunday afternoon and had this on the air. This little Magnetic Loop does remarkable well, sits literally two feet off the ground. I can put it in my trunk, takes all of 5 minutes to put it together at a remote site and the results are pretty darn good. Another positive I noticed, reduced static crashes, about 2 S units typically. I can rotate it to focus on certain areas to work. I does have a narrow bandwidth, but that could be a good thing during a field day with multiple transmitters as you might not get interference from the others working nearby.

So there you have it, some actual comparisons. For all those living in HOA's, no trees, no tower, etc, this really could be the difference from not operating to getting on the air.

Mike Sorensen, K9KQX

Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting May 1st, 2019

Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting May, 2019

Leo Ribordy N9NBH Chairman declared No Quorum at 7:00 PM; therefore no business conducted.

Informal discussion regarding Field Day preparation was held. Geoff KA9QGH President published an email to the club informing lack of Field Day Leadership may preclude participation this year.

Attendees

Leo Ribordy	N9NBH	John Douglas	KD9KSH	Dennis C Calvey	KD9HIK
Frank Giampa	N9QPD	Peter Maziuk	N9POL	Danny Kafka VP	KD9HIL

Edward Lishka	AC9SD	Geoff Stevens	KA9QGH	Cliff Sowka	K9QD
Bob Langsfeld	WB9TZC	John Zietlow	K9WIC		

Treasurer's Report

Chris Brewer AC9GN not present.

President's Report

Geoff KA9QGH reminded the group that we will be looking forward to field day shortly. Discussion centered around details of contacting the Village for Permit Approval, Insurance Rider, organization specifics and communicating with the relevant Village officials. Time is very short.

Publicity

Dennis Calvey KD9HIK reported he had forwarded proposed text for a new Press Release to the Board but no receipts/feedback was observed. Danny KD9HIL remarked she is also not receiving SARC-BD traffic. Both need to be added to the SARC-BD Reflector.

SARC Repeaters

Rob N9MVO and Terry AE9TJ not present.

Secretary's Report

Cliff Sowka K9QD: Approval of March's BOD Minutes as published on our website.

EMCOMM

John Zietlow K9WIC EMMCOMM Chairman provided the following:

The following events should be listed on the SARC Calendar:

- Chicagoland Marathon May 19, 2019
- Tour du Cur June 2, 2019

Last Saturday was the Simulated Emergency Test. NC9IL was active in Springfield accepting Digital Traffic from the incident. Voice nets were held on 75 meters, 60 meters and 40 meters. Band conditions limited voice operations. Bob, WB9TZC had a successful event at the Salvation Army. W9SAC was heard checking into several nets.

The next SARC EmComm Event is the Chicagoland Marathon on May 19th. Bob WB9TZC is in charge of the event and looking for additional stations to participate. This is a great event for newcomers as we can pair you with experienced hams so that you are not overwhelmed. Contact Bob, WB9TZC bobfeld@comcast.net if you'd like to help.

The Tour du Cur is a bicycle race across most of Kane County. Contact Bob WB9TZC at Bob bobfeld@comcast.net if you'd like to help out with this event.

Construction Project (CP)

Bill McGovern W9WEM not present but provided the following report:

Attendees:

Gary N9VU

Russ KC9NUV Bill KD9AUP

Cliff K9QD Bill KD9AUP John KD9KSH

Tom KD9KF Dennis KD9HIK

Bill W9WEM

Peter N9POL Bob N9JAX Matt AC9IG

Matt AC9IG Terry AE9TJ Terry AE9TJ

Ron WB9PTA DJ WA9UBR Robert W9RKK

Dave K9KBM Alan W9RUV Mike K9KQX

Daryl KB9RHR Burt AB9CV

Leo N9NBH

Wake AF9I Chris AC9GN Kevin KD9MKD

Mike KD9KMV

Thanks to all who attended the final Construction Project meeting of the season this past Saturday. It was a very well attended event. Apologies to anyone I may have missed.

SARC in the Park will be our activity for this time slot beginning May 11th. Refer to the SARC calendar at: www.n9rjv.org

Social

John Douglas KD9KSH has taken control of the Social Chairman Role for 2019. Currently organizing a J-Pole antenna project for early summer. Specifics will be presented to club members shortly.

Education

Leo N9NBH will be conducting a Technician Class with the Library District for the fall timeframe.

VE Testing

Ed Lishka AC9SD reported the March session results: Passed 3 Technician, 2 General, 1 Extra.

RHG: No Report.

Membership Committee

Bob Benwitz N9JAX provided a report.

The following were contacted/responded to for the month of April:

4/25. Richard Dickens KY0Q inquiry regarding payment verification. Richard was referred to Chris Brewer AC9GN and verification was made. Now that we have the web-based electronic roster for paid members, it needs to be set up so once Chris receives payment the new member automatically receives the roster invite and temporary password. Time and time again I am contacted by new members who have paid their money but don't get any verification. I thought this was being addressed.

NETS

Mike Griffiths KD9KMV provided the following Tech Net report for April 30th:

Attendees

KD9KMV	Mike (Net Control)
KD9AUP	Bill
K9KQX	Mike
N9HLG	Rick
W9RKK	Robert
AC9SD	Ed
W9YFC	Doug
W9DXR	Bob
KD9KSH	John
N9NBH	Leo
WB9C	Phil
KD9MKD	Kevin

KD9HUI

Kevin

W9WEM

Bill

K9GLA

Gary

Topics discussed:

*Who uses amplifiers, either on HF and/or 2m/70cm – 3 said yes, the rest no.

*Where to purchase high voltage variable capacitors for building a magnetic loop antenna.

*Lightning protection and use of lightning arrestors

*PL259 push-on adaptors from <http://www.w5swl.com>

Public Service

Rob N9MVO not present but previously reported the MS Walk has changed the venue for the event in 2019. More details will become known before Sunday May 5th.

Programs

Cliff Sowka K9QD reminded a new SARC Program Chair needs to be selected for 2019. Nothing other than Field Day Planning is scheduled for the May Business meeting at the moment.

Ebay Sales

No eBay sales to report.

Old Business

NA

New Business

NA

Adjourn 8:25 PM

Submitted: May 3, 2019 by Cliff Sowka K9QD during the prearranged absence of Ken Krzywicki KD9HIJ, Secretary.

Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting May 16, 2019

Schaumburg Business Meeting May 16, 2019

Geoff Stevens KA9QGH President called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Rebecca KA9EFE brought lemon bars: fabulous!

Attendees

Orson Baker	AB9WQ	Danny Kafka VP	KD9HIL	Greg Howard	KD9MYA
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John	AC9JS	Gary	N9VU	Burt Shultz	AB9CV
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Schofield	Bernstein				
Geoff Stevens	KA9QGH	Leo Ribordy	N9NBH	Frank Giampa	N9QPD
Bob Zuttermeister	W9GEW	Bill McGovern	W9WEM	Robert Kocourek	W9RKK
John Zietlow	K9WIC	Bill Crockett	KD9AUP	Terry Jarholm	AE9TJ
Chuck Billstrand	KB9RGI	Cliff Sowka	K9QD	Bob McIntyre	W9DXR
Don Smith	K9UD	John Douglas	KD9KSH		

Treasurer's Report

Chris Brewer AC9GN not present but previously reported:

Beginning Balance	\$5,307.76
Income	\$ 0.00
Expense	\$ 348.53 (\$61.53 Data Line, CPM Cabs, Sec'y St. Annual Rpt)
Ending Balance	\$4,959.22

Current fully-paid membership: 75

President's Report

Geoff Stevens KA9QGH Field Day remains Chair-less. Geoff proposed Dues Amnesty for the person who handles the FD Duties for the following year.

Publicity

Dennis Calvey KD9HIK not present.

SARC Repeaters

Terry AED9TJ announced our repeater is repeating. The BOD has approved \$200 headroom for inventory acquisition and some replacement Lightning suppressor pills have arrived; still need to purchase some spare memory and uP modules.

Membership

Bob Benwitz N9JAX not present.

Secretary's Report

Cliff Sowka K9QD: Approval of Meeting Minutes as published on our website.

EMCOMM

John Zietlow K9WIC EMCOMM Chairman updated the club regarding Bill Clark's Ham Operator's resource request:

The Marathon will be held on Sunday, May 19.

John will be looking for hams interested in helping with this event. Please contact j.zietlow@comcast.net if interested. We usually arrive around 0630 with

our hand-helds and begin the race around 0700. Our role is to support the Unified Command with sitreps (situation reports) and monitor runners for medical or physical problems. Don't worry if you can't make the meeting on the 30th; we can still use your help on May 19th.

Schaumburg EMCOMM Radio Team will provide communications support for the Chicagoland Marathon. The typical operational period is from 0630 to noon in the Busse Woods Forest Preserve. We are looking for volunteers to provide situational reports and health and welfare, tactical communications during the event. An orientation meeting will be held on April 30th at the Schaumburg EOC by Bill Clark, the Unified Commander for the event. It should be noted that this is also Dayton Weekend.

Additional information will be sent via Sarc-ALL.

There will also be a joint exercise involving multiple communities and agencies during the week of June 19, 2019. This exercise will likely include amateur radio participation. It should be noted that time is the week leading up to Field Day.

The following events are listed on the SARC Calendar:

- Chicagoland Marathon May 19, 2019

The Simulated Emergency Test Exercise Plan has already been published.

Construction Project (CP)

Bill McGovern W9WEM not present but provided the previous report:

SARC in the Park will become our activity for this time slot beginning in May.

Refer to the SARC calendar at: www.n9rjv.org

The current Park District Free-Rental Agreement for the basement facility needs to be renewed. We will need to renew our insurance rider as well.

Social

John Douglas KD9KSH reported plans are now complete for the J-Pole construction at Bob's machine shop on June 15th.

Bob Zuttermeister W9GEW is able to host a social event for several Hams wishing to build antennas. Bob is opening his business and will provide available machine shop tools at no charge (asked participants to assist in collecting \$20 for materials ahead of time) to help club members craft J-Pole antennas.

John currently has about 5 people interested in participating. Will plan a small additional collection to bring in some lunch at Bob's facility. Bob and John have scheduled 10AM June 15th. Internal SARC-ALL correspondence underway and attendees need to confirm back to John's email traffic by June 1st.

Education

Leo N9NBH reported plans are set for a fall Technician class.

VE Testing

John AC9JS reports VE Tests results.

VE Tests Results for May 4, 2019

Name

Call

Class

Hamer, Judith	KD9NDQ	Technician
Moseley, Robin	KD9NDR	Technician
Johnsen, Donald	KD9MXY	General
Carlson, Robert	KD9NDS	Technician
Leisten, Thomas	KD9NDT	Technician

Class	
Technician	4
General	1
Extra	0
Failed to Upgrade	0
Total	5

Next examination date: June 1, 2018

RHG:

Mike KD9KMV not present.

Public Service

Rob N9MVO not present.

Programs

Cliff Sowka K9QD reported that a new Program Chair is needed for 2019. No program scheduled for tonight.

Nets

On Thu, May 2, 2019 at 8:59 PM Steve Karson <ac9em1@gmail.com> wrote:

Club Members – thanks for participating in tonight’s net. I certainly appreciate your time and input. Questions of the night. “Do you plan to attend the Xenia/Dayton Hamfest?”

Tonight’s (May 2nd) Check Ins:

KD9AUP	Bill	KB9RGU	Jim	WA9E	Roberto
N9NBH	Leo	W9RKK	Robert	KD9KMV	Mike
KD9HIJ	Ken	AC9SD	Ed	KD9HIK	Dennis
WB9C	Phil	W9WEM	Bill	W9YFC	Doug
KD9KSH	John	NN9N	Orson	N9MVO	Rob

W9DXR	Bob	KB9RHR	Daryll	K9KBM	Dave
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N9HLG	Rick	KD9NAZ	Russ		
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Leo N9NBH reported May 9th NET Check-ins:

N9NBH	Leo	KB9RGU	Jim	KD9HIJ	Ken
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KD9AUP	Bill	AC9EM	Steve	KD9KSH	John
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AC9SD	Ed	KB9QVX	Kevin	AC9GN	Chris
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KD9KMV Mike		W9YFC	Doug	W9WEM	Bill
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W9DXR	Bob	WB9C	Phil	N9MVO	Rob
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KD9AQO Brian		NN9N	Orson		
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Bill McGovern W9WEM reported Tech Net results for May 7th.

We had the following folks check in to the SARC Tech Net this evening:

W9RKK Robert	N9HLG Rick	KD9KSH John
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K9KBM Dave

AC9SD Ed

W9DXR Bob

W9YFC Doug

KD9AJI Chris

KD9MBR Dane

KB9RGI Chuck

KD9IPO Ron

The question to all: Do you have the ability to operate HF portable? If so, what modes, which bands? Equipment, details?

Six participants said they had the ability or were very close. A variety of antenna solutions were mentioned including end-feds, verticals and magnetic loops.

Thanks to everyone who checked in and participated!

Ebay Sales

No eBay sales to report. Gary Bernstein N9VU offered his services in filling this vacant role and indicated his previous experience could be helpful.

New Business

Geoff KA9QGH moved the club's President will also be assigned Field Day Chair during elected term. Frank N9QPD reminded there are specific job descriptions in the ByLaws that define roles for each office and such a proposal would require an official club affirmation during Special Session. Motion withdrawn.

Old Business

None

Ask an Elmer

Geoff KA9QGH experienced a length of dead COAX that was underground for several years. Receive seems okay but transmit appears to be loaded into a direct short. His Fluke continuity test indicates fault but it isn't known how low of a resistance indicates when fail status is indicated.

Bill AUP has offered his 900 Mhz machine as a donation.

Adjourn 8:10 PM

Submitted: May 17, 2019 by Cliff Sowka K9QD during the prearranged absence of Ken Krzywicki KD9HIJ, Secretary.

From the President May 2019

From the President,

By the time you read this we will be coming into the month of June, and of course this means [Field Day](#). For twenty-four continuous hours, on the fourth weekend of June, amateur radio operators gather together all across the country and attempt to make as many contacts as possible over the airwaves. We attempt to make all of these contacts under less-than-ideal conditions. Essentially, this is an emergency simulation. We amateur radio operators bring to bear the sum total of all our skills and knowledge in radio, electronics, and feed-line theory to get on the air. This is also a wonderful opportunity to bring this fascinating hobby to the public. We have the opportunity to show off all of our cool equipment and awesome operating skills. [Field Day](#) provides an opportunity to show how we can operate within our community to provide

safety, education, and a place for youth to gather in a safe, professional, and positive environment.

So, with all of these interesting points of interest, why do so many people get on the air to participate? So many, in fact, it is almost impossible to find an empty notch on any of the main bands to make a call. Is it because they like the smell of generator exhaust and sitting in hot tents? Is it because they like simulating an emergency environment? I believe, the reason that so many people are on the air, is because [Field Day](#) is an informal contest. [Field Day](#) is also about radiosport. Some 86 years ago, the ARRL knew, that to draw a crowd, they needed to keep score. This gives radio operators the impetus, for example, to bring in youth to make contacts (5 youth contacts under the age of 18 = 100 points). There are many other categories to score points. It was not more than a few years ago the [Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club](#) had held the top spot in the 2A category in Illinois. In fact, the [SARC Field Day](#) team held that top spot for many years. It is by collecting points in all the myriad categories that we can be sure we are touching all of the areas of society to have the greatest impact and influence.

We have all studied hard and continue to learn new techniques, modes and equipment using our licenses. Volunteering in public service helps give us an outlet to use these skills and help us stay in the public eye and promote the social good. When it comes to [Field Day](#), volunteers are a little harder to come by. We have only three gentlemen that have stepped forward to volunteer for tent captains. They are:

Robert Kocourek – Single Sideband/Phone tent

Bob McIntyre – CW/Morse code tent

Robert Zuttermeister – GOTA/Get On The Air Tent

We still need a [Field Day](#) organizer to make this whole thing come together. I hope to hear from somebody to step forward. Let's see if we can make an impact for the [2019 Field Day](#)!

Geoff Stevens

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