

# SCARC May - 2016

## Newsletter of the St. Clair Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 94, Belleville, IL 62222

[www.scarc.net](http://www.scarc.net)

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ARES/RACES net is a Directed Net and is normally conducted by Gene Kraemer, WA9TZL (Tuesdays following the Club "on-the-air" meeting.

**Welcome** again to the online edition of **SCARC**, the 2016 version of the club newsletter. You may catch up on earlier newsletters by visiting our website at <http://www.scarc.net>. There is also lots of additional information about the club there as well, History, Special Events, Club officers, etc... check it out.

**Meeting location:** The May meeting will be at the Belleville Fire House #4, with gavel sounding at 8:00PM.

**News on the upcoming Activities and Events:** Besides the usual mid-month activity of the Antenna Builder's Guild which meets at Pleasant Ridge Park in Fairview Heights, and for May will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> and include a "Fox Hunt" activity, we will be supporting the Ainad Shriner's Run and Parade which will be on Friday, June 3 this year. The Shriners will have a planning meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, at 8 AM (I haven't heard what location yet). There will also be the "day before" meeting with Shriners on June 2. (I will attend these but would like to have a project chairman to specifically stay on top of everything. Call me if you would like this Chairmanship; 618-541-8937). On June 4<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is a Bike Ride at Alton, we may have a couple members supporting this, but the training session (if you want to help), is on 10 May, but I am not sure where or what time. June's Antenna Builder's meeting will be Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and ARRL's Field Day is set for June 25 thru 26. SCARC will participate in the Field Day activities and sponsor this year's activity at Pleasant Ridge Park. June 12<sup>th</sup> is the Egyptian Radio Club Hamfest at Holy Family Community Center, in Granite City, IL.

**Training sessions for those interested in becoming Hams:** SCARC has the capability to teach Amateur Radio Classes, but we need to recruit and sign up both instructors and students for Technician, General and Extra Class license. So if you are available and can explain about being a Ham Radio operator and would like to instruct, or if you are interested in upgrading your license, when the sign-up sheet is passed around at the club meeting, don't be shy, sign up so a schedule can be developed and progress can be made. Rome wasn't built in a day, and this won't happen overnight, so be patient and work with me... Please call Larry, KB4FIO at 618 541-8937 to register. If you don't call there is no way a schedule will happen and you will miss the class. Thank you all.

**New Members:** We had the following new members join SCARC; Welcome: Lynn Neumann, James Williamson, and Tipton Klamberg. Also VE testing provided us with two new Techs, and a General: Lynn Neumann and Geoffrey Brentor are the new Techs, and Gary Myers, KC9UFD, is the new General. Congratulations to all, good job.

**Want Ads Section:** Since I don't have any want ads for this month, I will use this space to propose an activity schedule for the summer months. We, SCARC, will support the Shriner's Parade scheduled for **June 3** this year. We will need at least 10 volunteers to support the parade in the marshaling area, and at the reviewing stand as well as at the start of the parade. You will need a "Handy-Talky" (HT) handheld radio with a good charge (fresh batteries) as we usually spend 2 to 3 hours getting things coordinated and running. If you have never done this before, it is fun so don't worry, we will put you with one of the guys that has done it several times.

In June there is a Bicycle event called Metro East Cycle ride/race. They could use the help of our radio club to provide them with communications and monitoring. This event is set for 17 and 18 June. (Get more information at the club meeting, May 26<sup>th</sup>.)

**The MS Bike event** is the big one where some 80 Hams are required to support all the route and events. That will be September, 9, 10, and 11. (I have already signed up for this as well as some of the other SCARC members. Join us and get trained and join the party and have fun).

July 23, 2016 we will plan to visit the repeater site and look over the operation there. If you would like to visit the repeater site and see what we have, please sine the roster at the meeting and plan on it for 23 July, about 9:30 AM meet at SWIC parking lot and we will progress to the site.

SCARC has been queried as to interest in participating an **AUXCOMM training class**. Below is from an Illinois rep for **AUXCOMM** and helps explain it more. This will be discussed at the meeting:

"The course focuses on auxiliary communications interoperability, emergency operation center etiquette, on-the-air etiquette, FCC rules and regulations, auxilliary communications training and planning, certification/accreditation and emergency communications deployment. It is intended to supplement and standardize an operator's basic knowledge of emergency amateur radio communications in a public safety context."

Prerequisite: **Auxiliary Emergency Communications** candidates must have the following prerequisites to attend the course:

- 1) amateur radio license.
- 2) Past experience in auxiliary emergency communications.
- 3) Completion of the following training courses prior to the class: IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800.
- 4) A desire to learn how to work with COMLs in a NIMS/ICS environment.

The prerequisite training requirements are available through the FEMA web site. I am working on getting this for us and to make it a little easier for those that are interested. Larry, KB4FIO

**Antenna Builders and Mid-Month Social:** I have been told by Dennis, KM9O, the group will meet on Saturday, 21 May, at Pleasant Ridge Park, Fairview Heights, IL. The group gathers around 10:00 AM has a delicious "pot-luck" lunch, (so bring your favorite dish to share), they also work on antennas, and operational testing of them, wrapping up about 2:00 to 4:00PM... Please try to attend and learn something that may be useful. I like the square loop antennas and various yagi designs... Dennis can also provide information on upcoming QSO party information and Field Day activities, so it is even more important that you be there, come on folks lets do it...

**Did You Know...?** A common question I hear from new hams is "how do I get a vanity call sign?" The process is probably harder than it needs to be but certainly something any ham can do. As of September 2015, the FCC no longer charges a fee for vanity call signs.

**Net Control Operator (NCO):** I attended a ST Louis ARES NCO Boot Camp presented by Peter B. Brisbine, NØMTH, Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Digital Operations & Training, St Louis Metro ARES®/RACES, on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Below is the after-action email published by Peter:

“First of all, a HUGE THANK YOU for coming out on a such a gorgeous Saturday to spend some time inside learning about the roles & responsibilities of a Net Control Operator.

I've finally had some time to sit down and go thru all the surveys and suggestions.

From the surveys, some key points are below along with additional comments:

- Table Top Exercise

Certainly this is a great idea. Being that this was the first class of this type being offered in the years I've been involved with ARES, I felt it best to go over the basics first. I was concerned about time frame, length of the class in one sitting, etc.

I would be more than happy to organize a more advanced class where we could go over scripting writing, practice more documentation, having people take turns in class "running a net" so the fear of messing up on the radio isn't there, etc.

- Location

This is especially meant for those folks crossing that imaginary wall of the big muddy river :), I very much appreciate you taking the time out of your Saturday to drive the 30-45min over to the MO side for class.

And this next few paragraphs goes out to the IL folks who mentioned the location was good but perhaps not as convenient...I'm going to rely on you to help fix the issue. :) Please pass along the following to your club leadership:

"The same offer exists for you as I've made to the other ARES districts surrounding the STL area. I'm happy to take any of the classes offered here (Intro to Emcomm, Basic RMS/Winlink, NCO, Basic Packet Radio, etc) and come to your neck of the woods."

If your club wants help in developing more training opportunities, perhaps put together more public service oriented training with an emphasis on your ARES groups, please let me know!

Of course it is all dependent on my openings around STL ARES commitments and my personal schedule. But if you can put together a similar training environment; a classroom that will support a projector (I have my own), at least a dozen students, and something that would work for at least a four hour class, we can work something out where I'll come to you.

- More advanced topics of NCO/NCS Besides the table top exercise, what more would you like to see?

I know I mentioned the possibility of a message handling class to go over the ARRL Radiogram, NTS style, and ICS-213 forms.

Again, if you have any additional feedback, please don't hesitate to let me know. I'll get the updates made to the manual here in the next couple of days as time permits and get that out to you no later than the end of the week. Please feel free to pass it around to others. As always, the final and continued updates to documents that are provided in class are available on the STLARES.ORG website. As always, please check back on the STLARES.ORG website for more training opportunities that are provided. Many are open to anyone outside of our registered volunteers. Be aware that we do occasionally offer very specific training for just our STL Metro ARES/RACES volunteers as it pertains to our local organization and served agencies that may not be relevant to your needs.” -----

This may not interest all our members but will be discussed further at our monthly meetings, plus I met “Deloris” of the St Louis club and a usual check-in on our Tuesday on the air meetings... She is a nice and very informed lady!!! Larry, KB4FIO