

SCARC June - 2016

Newsletter of the St. Clair Amateur Radio Club

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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.

"How-Dee" to all the members of **SCARC**, this is the June edition of the 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 Date, Time and location: The JUNE meeting will be on the 30th at the Belleville Fire House #4, with gavel sounding at 8:00PM.

News on the Shriner's Parade: As most of you know the Shriners (Ainad Temple) sponsors a parade each year near the end of May. This year it happened to be on June 3rd. I had asked for volunteers to help work the communications for the parade at the April meeting and again at the May meeting (though May was already a bit late). We had four individuals and myself that arranged our schedules such that this activity could be carried out. SCARC members; 5 is the absolute minimum number this event could be accomplished with. I am very grateful that NEW members Bill and Rebecca Carroll volunteered and did an absolutely superb and professional job as the key operators for the Reviewing Stand location, and the Parade start location. Bill worked the start location and doubled as our net-control. Gary Myers worked as the "runner" being right with one of the Shriners directing units in the parade to the starting line-up. Bob Thurgood and myself worked independently of any specific Shriner, answering questions as best we could for parade participants. Helping them find their spots to get together and when to move forward to the ready line for entering the parade. Do not let this summation fool you, we tried to make things move as smooth as we could, and overall I think the Shriners were very happy with the support we provided. But as the President of this club, I feel like we should have had another 5 to 10 members helping and show the importance of the club to the community. The Shriner Parade is probably the biggest event we work during the year, and is certainly the most visible to the public. While the 5 people that did support the Parade really put a big smiling face forward for the club, I can't but think how much greater it would have been with 15 or so members supporting the event. Our presence would have really been noticed and win even more kudos for the club. I understand about priorities, so those that would have volunteered but couldn't, remember there will be next year. 73s

New Members: We had the following new members join SCARC at the May meeting; Welcome: Willian (Bill) Carroll – KC9CIK and Rebecca Carroll – KC9CIJ. Thanks for joining and jumping right in with volunteering for club activities. 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 review the activity schedule for the summer months.) 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 bike riders. This event is set for 17 and 18 June. For details and volunteering, call Chris WX9SVR at 618-979-8163. Please do not forget ARRL Field Day. That will be Saturday – Sunday 1:00 PM to 1:00PM (24 hours of operations) on June 25 and 26. The club has reserved pavilion #1 at Pleasant Ridge Park in Fairview Heights for our club field operating location. You can check out the “operating procedures and rules on the ARRL web site (<http://www.arrl.org/>). Most participating members will arrive at the park around 10 to 11:00 AM to set up equipment and antennas. Earlier if you need more time. Hope to see you there.

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, we will have fun).

July 23, 2016 we will 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 sign the roster at the June meeting and plan on it for 23 July, about 9:30 AM meet at SWIC parking lot and we will progress to the site.

(Repeat) SCARC has been queried as to interest in participating in an **AUXCOMM training class**. The following is from an Illinois rep for **AUXCOMM** and helps explain it more. “The course focuses on auxiliary communications interoperability, emergency operation center etiquette, on-the-air etiquette, FCC rules and regulations, auxiliary 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. (you'll learn what that is.) 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 informed by Dennis, KM9O, the group will meet on Saturday, 11 June, at the Egyptian Radio Club (Holy Family Community Center, 2600 Washington Ave. Granite City, IL). The group gathers around 10:00 AM, wrapping up about 2:00 to 4:00PM... They plan to demonstrate some special communications capabilities this month. Please try to attend and learn something that may be useful. Dennis can also provide information on upcoming QSO party information and **Field Day** activities, so it is even more important that you come out if you can, come on folks let's do it...

Did You Know...? A 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. Yea!!!

(Repeated) Net Control Operator (NCO): I attended a ST Louis ARES NCO Boot Camp presented by Peter B. Brisbane, NØMTH, Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Digital Operations & Training, St Louis Metro ARES®/RACES, on Saturday, May 7th. 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