

# The St. Louis and suburban Radio Club, Inc. Members Handbook



Established 1947

St. Louis, Missouri

501(c)3

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## THE AMATEUR'S CODE

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Sure, amateurs are required to abide by the rules and regulations of FCC Part 97, but most also subscribe to an even higher standard: the time-tested "code", written by League Counsel, Paul M. Segal, and revised by the ARRL Board of Directors in 1989. Please share the new version with your fellow amateurs:

# The Amateur's Code

### **The Radio Amateur is**

**CONSIDERATE**...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL**...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE**...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

**FRIENDLY**...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED**...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

**PATRIOTIC**...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

--The original Amateur's Code was written by **Paul M. Segal, W9EEA**, in 1928.

Paul M. Segal, W9EEA(sk) (revised, ARRL Board of Directors, 1989)

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## Presidents Message

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I would like to welcome each of you as members of The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club, Inc. and remind you that our club is what each of us makes of it. I truly believe that SLSRC is a great organization because it is made of great members, and I hope each of you will take time and find ways of supporting the club through your input and participation as we move forward in this great avocation - Amateur Radio!

I want to thank each member of the Board, the Trustees and club Chairpersons for all the time and commitment they have and will continue to volunteer on our club's behalf. These positions of responsibility are the backbone of any successful organization and I believe we are fortunate to have wonderful people filling these positions this year.

I want to especially thank Mike Bien, KBØPDL, for taking on the voice of SLSRC by volunteering to be the Editor In Chief of the club newsletter .. The Printed Circuit.

As I begin my term as President of this great club I must admit that I am really looking forward to working with the Board, Trustees, and general membership to enable SLSRC to continue to provide leadership and fellowship for Amateurs in the St. Louis area. I think that what we get out of the club is directly proportional to what we put in, and together we can work to make the club, which is already great, even better.

The Board and I are working to make the special events like Field Day and the Annual Picnic even better by adding additional activities to each event. We have adding new club positions, including: Public Service Chairperson, Maintenance Chairperson, and Social Chairperson to increase the depth at which the club serves the membership. We are developing a list of events, like Fox Hunts and member coffee clutches, that provide additional opportunities for the members to experiment in the hobby and form stronger bonds of friendship. These events and more are to be as varied as the club membership is varied, and through them we hope that each and every member finds multiple ways to participate.

We have vastly improved the club's meeting place by moving our monthly meetings to a place where we can take advantage of the extensive array of audio visual equipment as well as wireless internet access for enhanced programming while providing a professional atmosphere that is both smoke-free and accessible to all.

The clubs on-line presence is in the form of an information packed club website [WWW.SLSRC.ORG](http://WWW.SLSRC.ORG) that provides timely information and resources for both members and the general Amateur community. Please make time to take the Online Member Survey, located in the members-only portion of the site, and let us know what is important to you as an SLSRC member.

Finally, I ask each of you to help the Board Members and Officers make 2008 your most fulfilling and enjoyable time as a SLSRC member!

- 73, Mark Biernacki, KB5YAY, President

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## Who We Are

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The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club, Inc. (SLSRC) is both a Federal 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation and Missouri State Non-Profit Corporation. Suburban was formed on April 10, 1947, and on July 13, 1948 became an ARRL Affiliated Club. On December 18, 1954 Suburban became a General, Not-for-Profit Corporation. On April 2, 1993 Suburban became an ARRL Special Service Club, and on January 1, 2004 the club became "The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club, Inc." as it absorbed the former St. Louis Repeater association.

The Officers and Board of SLSRC continue to look forward toward new vistas as Amateur Radio does what it has always done ... forge ahead on the cutting edge of communications and technology, and experimentation with new modes and new frequencies as they are licensed to US Amateurs.

### 2008 Officers of the Corporation

- President – Mark Biernacki, KB5YZY
- Vice-President – Steve Schmitz, WØSJS
- Secretary – Cliff Rozar, KCØSDV
- Treasurer – Bill Coby, KBØMWG
- Board Member at Large – Max Slover, KØAZV
- Board Member at Large – Charlie Troxell, KH2OP

### Trustees of the Corporation

- Mark Biernacki, KB5YZY – 146.850/146.250, 224.520/222.920, and 443.075/448.075 (WØSRC/R)
- John Wilson, NØTYZ – 146.910/146.310 (NØTYZ/R)
- Ron Francois, KØSTL – 146.940/146.340 (KØSTL/R)
- Charlie Wilmes, KCØHXB – 146.970/146.370 (WØFF/R)
- Bill Coby, KBØMWG – 442.100/447.100 (KBØMWG/R)
- Mike Moore, WDØEFP – 52.850/51.150 (WDØEFP/R)

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## Standing Committees of the Corporation

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**Program Committee – the Board.** The program committee locates and secures programs for the regular meetings of the club. The Board may create ad hoc committees, as needed, to produce such events. If you have suggestions for meeting programs or wish to assist with the development of programs or program ideas be sure to contact a member of the Board.

**Membership – Steve, WØSJS.** The membership committee investigates applications for membership and recommends whether they should be approved. The committee maintains the club roster and investigates ways to promote club membership. If you wish to assist this committee or change any data in your roster listing you may do so by contacting the membership chairperson or log on to the members only portion of the club web and update your information. All current members have access to the members-only portion of the clubs website at <http://www.slsrc.org>.

**Public Information – Max, KØAZV.** The Public Information Officer of the club is the official voice of the club to the non-amateur community. The PIO also acts as a liaison between the club and Amateur community and the general public and media as well as maintaining a series of news and information articles and links on both the club websites “News & Information” section and the club Yahoo Usersgroup.

**Education – Cliff, KCØSDV.** The education committee arranges training classes for members. The committee also, from time to time, conducts license classes and study sessions. In addition, the Education chairperson maintains the “Upgrade classes” section of the club website.

**Maintenance – Mike, KB5ZY.** The maintenance committee assists the Trustee in monitoring, operation and maintenance of the repeater(s) and other equipment owned by the club. All equipment is checked out from time to time to assure a successful Field Day operation and to maintain our emergency communications capability. Due to the critical nature of most club equipment, committee membership is by invitation only.

**Social – Rebecca, KC9CIJ.** The primary function of the Social committee is to develop ways to promote the clubs unity and family atmosphere, and to make new membership in the club something that is “comfortable”. The social committee is in charge of social events such as club picnics, holiday parties, etc.

**Field Day/Special Events – Don, KDØJBN.** The special events committee conducts Field Day, hidden transmitter hunts, Hamfests, and certain special nets, etc. Special event "ad hoc" committees are formed for each planned event. SLSRC erects a Field Day station every June and has several other operation opportunities planned for each year. In addition, the Field Day/Special Events chairperson maintains the “Field Day Operations” portion of the club website.

**Public Service – Paul, KBØVTK.** The public service committee was created in 1988 to encourage SLSRC participation in emergency communications training, to participate in ARES, and to assist other organizations with communications. Participation in public service events is coordinated through this committee.

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## Club History

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The first meeting of what was to become The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club, Inc., began as the Suburban Radio Club took place on April 10, 1947. A group of Overland, Missouri hams were interested in forming a club. The group consisted of nine licensed hams and four prospective hams. Four members of the St. Louis Amateur Radio Club also attended and brought with them, copies of the SLARC Constitution and by-laws to serve as a model for the new club. At a second meeting, on April 16th, suggestions were made as to a proper name for the club. Among the suggestions: Overland Radio Amateurs Club, The Muleskinner's Amateur Radio Club, and the R9ers. As a temporary measure, the name Suburban Radio Club was adopted until a name for permanent use had been found. Needless to say, the temporary name stuck. The first officers, elected at the meeting of April 16, 1947, were John Miller, WØPMU, as President, Dick Chapman, WØRWU, as Vice-President, Bill Clark, WØNMM (now NØWC), as Secretary, and John Erickson, WØWTZ, as Treasurer.

On December 28, 1954 a Certificate of Incorporation was issued recognizing SRC (and now SLSRC) as a "General, Not for Profit Corporation". The official name became "Suburban Radio Club of St. Louis County, Inc.". The present constitution and bylaws were created in 1989 in order to become an ARRL Special Service Club. In 1999, the club members approved several Bylaw changes. A significant change was altering the board structure to include two board-members-at-large instead of the prior years' officers.

In the beginning, meetings were held twice each month with the meeting site moving between the homes of the members. Business meetings were brief and followed by a "social hour" with "refreshments" and usually a poker game. The host or, more likely, his XYL, furnished the refreshments. This became an imposition in time. In August 1951, a search began to find suitable quarters for the club. WØDOA offered the use of an unused chicken house on his property on Conway Road in Frontenac. With a concerted effort by club members, the chicken coop was transformed into a comfortable home for SRC. Howard Smith, WØYYA (now NØYA), applied for and received the club station call, WØDCW. In 1999, the club applied for, and obtained, the new vanity-call WØSRC. This new call is used on the repeaters as well as Field Day and other special events.

During 1955, Civil Defense started up in full swing. CD officials selected several radio clubs to assist with communications. SRC was one of the clubs selected to occupy the old streetcar barns in the center of Creve Coeur Park. In August of 1955, the club equipment was cleaned of chicken feathers and other things, and moved to the park. Civil Defense put up an 80-foot crank-up tower and two 80-foot high poles for antennas. SRC became responsible for "CD Sector 2". Civil Defense furnished several other pieces of gear, including a generator.

The meeting site moved several times during the 1970's and since. Including the Gables Restaurant, Pantera's Pizza in Ballwin, Western Sizzlin' Steak House in Bridgeton, the Goff-Moll American Legion Post in Brentwood, in November of 1992 to the Strike and Spare Lanes on Lindbergh Blvd., and then to its present location at the Missouri Baptist Hospital Complex, compliments of Rich Edsell, KCØIJX.

In 1952 the club had a training program at the Ritenour YMCA and several young persons

were able to earn their licenses. This was, of course, long before the days of VE testing. At the time, prospective hams had to wait until the FCC came to town, or make a trip to Kansas City for testing. Thus began a training program continuing to this day.

A review of old club records and newsletters reveal a number of recurring themes. SRC has consistently participated in Field Day, and up until the '90's held a dinner dance in the spring and a picnic in September. SRC Christmas parties were a long-standing tradition, but until recent years were old-style "stag panics." The club originally had a self-imposed limit of 25 members that constrained the member count for many years. During the '60's and despite a membership of only 25, the club sponsored several hamfests at the Creve Coeur site.

Howard Smith, Club Trustee, obtained a repeater license with call letters WRØABE on June 16, 1973. WRØABE/R was known as "Honest Abe, the Freedom Repeater". Honest Abe was installed in the barn at Creve Coeur Park and was open to all and ragchews were encouraged. KJØA/R replaced WRØABE as the call sign on the 146.85 repeater in June 1973 when the FCC discontinued repeater licenses.

By 1975 the County was having problems with vandalism in Creve Coeur Park and decided to close the park after dark. There was no reflection on the club, but it was decided this would be an opportune time to move. New quarters were provided by WØLJV, Ken Scott, at a business he owned and operated on Page Avenue. The repeater was moved from the park to Ed Wood's drugstore in Kirkwood on Manchester Road near Lindbergh. During the late 1970's the repeater occupied several sites, usually at the home of a member. The repeater made its final move in 1981 to the present site, procured by Carl, KJØA, on Olive Street Road.

The first 146.85 repeater in 1973 consisted of an RCA "Carfone" mobile radio and a home-brew duplexer built by Ed Brockelmeyer, KØEB. The repeater hardware was upgraded first to a General Electric "Progress Line" in the mid 70's. In the late 70's, Carl Lee, KJØA re-built the 146.85 repeater from a General Electric "Mastr Pro" mobile transceiver retired from the St. Clair, IL sheriff's department, a controller, digital voice recorder and a new Pheps-Dodge duplexer.

The other repeaters and equipment at the repeater site arrived more recently. Doug Sheridan, NØLCB(sk) donated the equipment to set up the digipeater in 1992. The club purchased the 224.52 repeater in 1993 and received the present 443.075 repeater from the City of St. Louis Police department in 1998.

1997 was a banner year for Suburban in the marking of the club's 50th anniversary. The anniversary theme was highlighted in club promotions, and there was a special event station in April to share our celebration with the rest of the ham community. 1997 also saw a change in the club's Field Day location – after many years on that hot parking lot at Queeny Park in Manchester, we secured a great site at McDonnell Park in St. Ann.

On January 1, 2004 the Suburban Radio Club of St. Louis County, Inc., became The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club, Inc., after merging with another well-known and respected Amateur Radio club, St. Louis Repeater, Inc.. Today, SLSRC hosts a major Hamfest, "Winterfest"; 8 repeaters; a yearly Field Day; monthly meetings with programming designed for Amateurs; participates as a club in special service activities; and supports the St. Louis County SKYWARN program and the St. Louis County ARES program by donating club repeaters for these purposes.

Over the decades, the Club has had its ups and downs but, thankfully, many more of the "ups". SLSRC has always been dedicated to public service and the education. The club has tried to connect new members with experienced "Elmers" when requested in order to enhance new licensee's introduction into the hobby.





### American Radio Relay League

The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club is both a League affiliated club and also a Special Service Club under the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

To keep our affiliation, we need to ensure at least 51% of our voting membership must be full or associate ARRL members.

You may start or renew your ARRL membership through the club. By doing so, the club is also allowed to keep a small portion of the membership fee. Contact the club Treasurer for an application and any assistance in filling it out.

SLSRC is recognized as a ARRL Special Service Club (SSC) that does more than the usual for the communities and for Amateur Radio. SSC's are recognized as well-rounded groups, leaders in their Amateur Radio communities, with the active training classes, publicity programs and the members who actively pursue technical projects and operating activities.

The Special Service Club designation requires that we have club programs for

- New Ham Development and Training.
- Public Relations and a Public Information Officer.
- Emergency Communications with an official emergency station and ARES participation.
- Technical Advancement and an appointed Technical Specialist.
- Operating Activities such as Field Day



### A.R.E.S.

SLSRC maintains a close relationship with the all of the local Amateur Radio Emergency Service groups.

Many club members also belong to these groups. The SLSRC 146.850 repeater is used for the weekly St. Louis County ARES net on Wednesday evenings. For additional information, check in during the net.



## **SKYWARN**

Many radio amateurs participate in the SKYWARN Program, and SLSRC supports the local SKYWARN by making the 146.940 repeater available to St. Louis County SKYWARN.

SKYWARN is a nationwide network of volunteer weather spotters who report to and are trained by the National Weather Service. These spotters report many forms of significant or severe weather such as Severe Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Hail, Heavy Snow, or Flooding. Contact the Public Service Chairperson of the club or Jim Kramper, KBØNMT, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National

Weather Service for class locations and schedules.

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## **Commitment To Service**

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Over the Years SLSRC has been active in both Public Service and Amateur related activities and events, including:

### **TUESDAY NIGHT NET**

Every Tuesday evening on the 146.850 (CTCSS 141.3), the club operates an informal “on-air” meeting/net that includes announcements, check-in's, and a swap portion. During the net an audio feed of Amateur Radio “Newline” is played. Check in is at 8:00 p.m.

### **FIELD-DAY**

SLSRC operates a Field Day station every June as part of the annual ARRL Field Day weekend. Field Day is a training exercise organized by the ARRL in the form of a contest. The purpose is to simulate emergency conditions by setting up portable antennas and radios and making as many contacts with other Field Day stations. Points are awarded based on the location, power source, publicity and number of contacts made. Field Day is always the last full weekend in June. SLSRC currently utilizes the James S. McDonnell Park for its operations.

### **FOX HUNTS**

SLSRC is periodically provides hidden transmitter hunts. A “Fox” begins transmitting from an undisclosed location in the St. Louis area. Your challenge is to use your S-meter, ears and directional antenna to locate the transmitter. First one there wins, but everyone has fun.

### **CHARITY WALKS AND BIKE RIDES**

These present many opportunities throughout the year to justify your expensive equipment and are a great source of Tee shirts. Members of the club have supported and helped organize the fundraisers for such organizations as Sharon’s Ride, March of Dimes, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Juvenile Diabetes Association and more.

## **MS-150 BIKE TOUR**

This is the big one. It is a two-day event with participation from clubs and individuals from many counties. Dozens of operators are required to cover the rest areas, support vehicles, medical and supplies.

## **MOONLIGHT RAMBLE**

Thousands of bicyclists take to the nighttime streets of St. Louis. Amateurs help in getting the riders through the busy intersections safely.

## **ST. LOUIS MARATHON**

Though presently on hiatus, the St. Louis Track Club has depended on amateur radio operators to track the race, keep the rest stops supplied and assist in the health and safety of the thousands of runners.

## **FAIR SAINT LOUIS**

This is another collaborative effort with amateurs from other clubs. It is a three-day event on and about the Arch grounds. We assist the thousands of other volunteers with traffic, health and safety. Quick action by amateurs in 1998 saved a small boat with an empty fuel tank from a collision with the ever-present barge traffic on the Mississippi River.

## **PICNIC**

Typically in May, the Thursday after Dayton, dozens of SLRC members and their families enjoy a catered picnic and games – no radio talk allowed at this one.

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The December meeting is often a dinner-meeting with fun and fellowship for all.

## **JAMBOREE ON THE AIR**

JOTA introduces Boy Scouts to Ham Radio. Several club members have worked each year with scout groups in the area.

## **HAMFESTS**

Hamfests have become the watering hole for amateurs -- social events as well as shopping sprees. Typically on a summer weekend, hundreds of hams converge on the park, civic building, or shopping center hosting the event. If you're looking for new equipment or something used to get started with, these are the places to go. Of course, many people just go to meet old and new friends. Don't forget the raffles and door prizes -- top prize is often a new rig.

## **HAMVENTION**

Dayton's Hamvention is the granddaddy of hamfests, held typically in May. Thousands of amateurs from across the nation make the pilgrimage to the Mecca of radio equipment in Dayton, Ohio. SLRC "Roadies" travel in convoys yacking away on a simplex frequency to make the drive enjoyable. But just try to find an unused simplex frequency once you're there.

Rooms are often reserved a year in advance, but forward thinking club members hold blocks of rooms. So just whisper the word "Dayton" on the repeater in April and see what a pileup develops.

## **OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS**

There are many other opportunities to participate in activities. In the past we have assisted with the Pope's visit to St. Louis, the National Weather Service Y2K Preparedness test as well as the City Emergency Management Agency's Y2K standby net.

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## **Credits and Acknowledgements**

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### **SLSRC GRAPHICS**

The Printed Circuit banner head and Suburban Radio Club logo had their beginnings in the imagination of one ham, Dick Maynard, NØEVM(sk). In June of 1989, Dick's ideas for these club logos were first hand drawn and then quickly turned into real artwork. The original artwork for the Printed Circuit banner and the Suburban Radio Club, Inc., logos were created by Steve, WØSJS. The logo and newsletter banner head have been modernized since, by Steve WØSJS, to capture the new spirit of The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club, Inc.

### **THE PRINTED CIRCUIT**

The cub newsletter, The Printed Circuit was the idea of Dick Maynard, NØEVM(sk) and the first few issues were developed by Dick and Bill Court, WA4WLA(sk) and later with the help of Steve Schmitz, WØSJS. The first issues were written and printed in 2 ½ inch column print and then hand-pasted into a newspaper format. Later, when more advanced computer word-processing was available the paper was laid out completely on computer.

The Printed Circuit has been revived often over the years and most recently through the outstanding effort of Mike Bien, KBØPDL. It is now available via e-mail and in color. The newsletter is made available in electronic form, so please be sure your E-mail address is correct on the membership database located on the club website.

Your contributions to the Printed Circuit are welcome. Forward your material to the newsletter editor at least two weeks before the club meeting.

### **THIS HANDBOOK**

The club handbook has gone through many hands and many lurching steps towards perfection.

- Special recognition goes to Dick Maynard, NØEVM(sk) for creating the Membership Guide, and to Carl Lee, KJØA for developing the first Repeater User Guide.
- Many others have carried on their work over the years, including: Jim Meadows, NØJVK; Doug Sheridan, NØLCB(sk); Steve Schmitz, WØSJS, Mike Musick, NØQBF, Jeff Pautz, ABØNR, Bill Carroll, KC9CIK, Rebecca Carroll, KC9CIJ, and John Wilson, NØTYZ.