



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 493

Founded 1948

July 2004



Field Day 2004

"W9CCU, 11A ILLINOIS"

Visitors and Guests  
Please Sign In Here

# From the President's Gavel

by Mike Wolff, AB9AX WCRA President



## Greetings One and All!

Your WCRA executive team is anticipating a warm and cozy summer. An executive board meeting was held on June 6th at my house as announced at the June membership meeting. This meeting ran long, but we did discuss some important issues that our club faces today. Of course, financial items have been discussed, as the executive board works towards balancing the budget. Balancing the budget will require either increasing income, decreasing expenses, or some combination of both. All the while, we are also keeping in mind the value of club membership, and how we can maintain it, or improve it along with this process.

We essentially have two sources of income: annual hamfest, and club membership. Looking at expenses, we have many. Right now, we pay approximately \$60.00 month to Wheaton College for use of a room at the Billy Graham Center. We pay \$63.00 and change to store the club truck at its current location. These two expenses alone eat up the anticipated income from membership dues.

In order to get our expenses under control, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IS ASKING FOR YOUR INPUT. So, I am personally asking you, the reader, to please help us come up with following: (Continued on Page 4)

### WCRA Staff

#### Elected Officers

President	Mike Wolff	AB9AX	630: 778-1070
Vice President	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630: 742-3581
Secretary	Mary James	K9GAL	630: 968-1844
Treasurer	Jack Feldman	KA9HEL	630: 515-0377
Custodian	Roberto Beltramelli	WA9E	630: 668-5688

#### Volunteer Committee Chairs

Club Call Trustee	Tom Geletka	N9CBA	630: 289-2535
Christmas Party	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630: 858-8541
Club Awards	John Cheney	N9MWF	708: 848-2885
Club Truck			
Elmer/Know-Code	George Reichert	W9GWR	630: 871-1786
Elmer/Know-Code	Charlie Matthews	WB9SGD	630: 665-4506
Field Day	Frank Krozel	KG9H	630: 653-9090
Field Day	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630: 858-8541
Field Day	Peter Richey	N9HDW	630: 260-9447
Hamfest	Bruce Plantz	K9OZ	630: 604-0157
Chaplin	Harry Sheaffer	W9AXI	630: 483-2044
Historian			
Interference			
Refreshments	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630:742-3581
Membership			
Membership	Robert Mitilieri	N9EF	630:510-7816
Membership Retention	Robert Noles	N9XS	630:372-7036
Public Relations			
Public Service	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	630:587-8059
VHF/HF Awards	John Cheney	N9MWF	708: 848-2885

#### Amateur License Staff

Training Classes	Jack Feldman	KA9HEL	630: 515-0377
Tech Instructor	Mike Wolff	AB9AX	630: 778-1070
Tech Instructor	Robert Mitilieri	N9EF	630: 510-9783
General Instructor	Pat Byrne	K9JAU	630:858-1959
Extra Instructor			
Volunteer Exam.	Harry Kamer	K9HK	630: 953-0519

#### WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

Trustee/Tech Adv	Tom Geletka	N9CBA	630: 289-2535
Chairman	Don Motz, Jr.	N9NYX	630: 665-7757
Secretary	Doug Totel	W9NJM	630: 469-3001
Tech Advisor	Gary Henle	N9VLL	630: 736-9102
Member	George Henry	KA3HSW	630: 830-6659
Member	Larry Schroeder	KA9KDC	630: 665-3228

#### WCRA Radio Nets

Sunday	8:00 pm	145.390/(-600)	Net Control: Rotates
Sunday	8:30 pm	224.140/(-1.600)	Net Control: Marty KA9RCC
Tuesday	8:00 pm	145.390(-600)	ARES Net
Tuesday	8:30 pm	444.475/(5.0)	UHF Net

#### WCRA Repeaters

145.390/ 144.790	103.5(1A) or 107.2(1B)	PL Encode/Decode
224.140/222.540		Carries Access - SKYWARN Service Liaison
444.475/449.475	114.8 Hz(2A)	PL Encode/ Decode
145.310/144.710		WCRA, W9CCU-1 Full Duplex Packet Repr

#### HAMLETTER

Editor	Don Motz, Jr.	N9NYX	630:665-7757
Photos	Larry Schroeder	KA9KDC	630: 665-3228
Features	Peter Barr	W9UF	630:971-8581
Features	Jin Ward	W9DHX	630: 469-4054
HAMLETTER		24 HOUR FAX	630:665-7757
HAMLETTER		eMail address:	donlin@xnet.com
This publication uses QuarkXPress 6.0 and Photoshop 7.01			



## WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Mary James  
K9GAL  
WCRA  
Secretary

Vice President **Steve, N9OA**, called the meeting to order at 21:09. Introductions were made by the board and all in attendance. **Joe, N9WRO**, made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and **John, N9MWF**, seconded it. A vote was taken and the motion carried. Steve explained that the program had been held before the meeting in an effort to maintain member interest. The program was an information and planning session for Field Day conducted by co-chairs **Frank, KG9H, Dale, NJ9E, and Peter, N9HDW**. Steve will present

next month's program on First Aid Kits. Programs for August and September are still to be determined. October's program will be Show & Tell. Secretary **Mary, K9GAL**, announced that the rosters and membership cards are available at the front table. Treasurer, **Jack, KA9HEL**, announced the club has changed the provider on two of its insurance policies. As a result, the annual costs have gone from \$1,414 to \$564 on liability insurance and decreased from \$175 to \$120 on the security bond. Members offered enthusiastic applause for Jack's efforts. Custodian, **Roberto, WA9E**, had no report. Hamfest, **Bruce, K9OZ**, reported that fliers are available at the front table and will be distributed at the Six Meter Club of Chicago Hamfest in Wheaton. When Bruce announced that **John, WT9Y**, has agreed to co-chair Hamfest, the members offered a round of applause. Elmer/Know-Code, **George, W9GWR**, said the last class had five participants and that they knew at least two students had passed the code section of the General test. Public Service Joe talked about recent events and upcoming activities such as the parades in Wheaton on the Fourth of July and in Glendale Heights on August 28. Training Jack, KA9HEL, said that College of DuPage is still offering the club's Technician class even though the interest has been low recently. Hamletter **Don, N9NYX**, reported that he had used a different process to e-mail the newsletter this month. He said there is a continuing need for additional authors. Web Page, **Mike, AB9AX**, reported that he had put the Hamletter on the web page. Joe, N9WRO, made a motion to accept committee reports, Peter, N9HDW, seconded the motion, a vote was taken and the motion carried. Jack, KA9HEL, announced that the coffee can at the front table is for donations to supplement cost of snacks at the meeting. President Mike, AB9AX, announced that a board meeting will take place noon Sunday, June 6 at his house in Sugar Grove. He invited members to attend. Mike also made an announcement that the board had decided to renew the RAB appointments of Larry, KA9KDC, and Don, N9NYX. **Marty, N9NTM**, announced that he had tickets for the Fox River Radio League Hamfest on July 11. Roberto said he has tickets, too. Under old business, Mike, AB9AX, said that the board had addressed the concern of Joe, N9WRO, that it consider having an amendment to the by-laws that the club is required to have a balanced budget. Mike said the board decided that maintaining a balanced budget is implied in the by-laws and is a main concern of the board, so there is no need for an amendment. In new business, Steve, N9OA, asked the membership what it thought of the change in the schedule of program and business meeting. In general, the club liked the switch except that the refreshments were served before the program and there was no break between the program and business meeting. **Kurt, K9RTO**, suggested the refreshments be served during a break after the program. The membership agreed, and the new schedule will go into affect at the July meeting. As an anchor, **John, WA9YZL**, said he had a Hallicrafters T.O. keyer available, and asked anyone interested in it to see him after the meeting. Joe, N9WRO, made a motion the meeting be adjourned; Steve, N9OA, seconded it. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 21:38.

# HAMFEST REPORT

Those lazy days of summer

BY BRUCE K9OZ

Not much to report on the Hamfest this month. We're in the summertime mode -- there are other things to do, like spend a Saturday night sitting in a VW bus and banging away on 40 CW, but the committee and the work will crank up in the fall.

John Faber, WT9Y, has agreed to be my co-chair this year. He'll spend the year seeing how things are organized, or disorganized, and be ready to take the helm next year. That's if he hasn't fled in terror.

We will still need a key volunteer -- someone to step in and be in charge of ticket sales. Last year's ticket chairman -- who also happens to be my wife -- has told me to find a new ticket chair or make room in the doghouse. It's cold out there in the winter, so we need a new ticket chairman. The XYL is busy enough as club secretary, anyway. I'd like to let the club officers keep busy as club officers, and find other people for key positions on the Hamfest.

The committee will hold its first meeting in September. My tentative date is the second Friday, Sept. 10. More details in the August Hamletter.

P.S. I still think the club needs to dispose of the truck while its in saleable condition. Don't wait the the next mechanical problem and then shovel more money down the rat hole. Yes, I have strong opinions.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

All WCRA members are hereby invited to joining me at the Wheaton City Hall at 303 West Wesley Street at 7:30 PM, Tuesday, July 13th. At that meeting of the Planning and Zoning Board I will be presenting my application for a zoning variation in order to erect a 48 foot tower and 2 element quad. I would very much appreciate any attendance support at the meeting. The Board will probably also meet two weeks after that to formally vote on the application. Both meetings will be critical to the favorable vote. Please call me at 630-681-9771 to discuss the meeting and indicate your attendance.

John Siepmann, N9NA

73,  
John, N9NA

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S GAVEL:** (Continued from page 2)

1. A place to store the club truck at no cost, or, cheaper than where it is now. Ideally, this location would be accessible 24 hours a day (where we could get the vehicle out at any time), somewhat secure, and free of cost.
2. Think about a suitable alternative meeting location. Maybe the library in Wheaton has rooms for less than \$60 / meeting? If you have an idea, let the executive board know, or better yet, help us out and find out how much if you have a spot in mind, and let us know. (Continued on page 13)

This article was forwarded to us by Pat, K9JAU  
June 10, 2004

Intriguing the Physicists, Radio Buff Shrinks an Antenna  
By IAN AUSTEN  
NY Times

WHILE a lifetime in ham radio played a role, it was love that ultimately led Rob Vincent to develop what he says is a way to make antennas significantly smaller but still efficient.

"About 1995 I had met a sweetheart and we fell in love," Mr. Vincent, now 60, recalled. "I went to live with her, but the only problem was that she lived on this postage stamp of a yard in a congested neighborhood."

The real estate owned by Carolyn Hardie, the woman Mr. Vincent later married, was an issue because his amateur radio interests had turned toward frequencies in the 160-meter band. That band is close to broadcast AM radio. And, like an AM station, operating on it requires a tall antenna - in Mr. Vincent's case, one that is 140 feet high. Aesthetic and zoning questions aside, the 50-by-100 foot lot was not big enough to accommodate the guy wires needed to stabilize a tower that high.

So Mr. Vincent, a technician with the University of Rhode Island's physics department, began thinking about ways to make antennas smaller. The end result is a system that he claims can produce antennas that are one-third to one-ninth as high as normally required. He has spoken to other ham operators in over 80 countries on the 160-meter band through his relatively new, self-supported backyard tower, which is one-third of the conventional minimum size.

Mr. Vincent said his improvements were not just applicable to ham radio towers. They could be used to either further shrink the tiny antennas in cellphones, he said, or boost their efficiency.

Small yet efficient antennas have long been a goal for radio researchers, said R. Dean Straw, the senior assistant technical editor for the American Radio Relay League, an association of amateur operators. "The holy grail is an antenna the size of a grain of salt that produces big signals," he said.

Generally the size of antennas increases with the wavelength of the frequencies they are transmitting or receiving. While there are several formulas for determining optimum height, the height of most antennas is one-quarter to one-half the wavelength. At 140 feet, for instance, Mr. Vincent's ham tower would have been slightly higher than one-quarter of the wavelength of 160 meters, which is equal to 525 feet.

Smaller antennas can be used, but with a trade-off. "When you get below a quarter-wavelength, efficiency drops off dramatically," Mr. Vincent said.

Before arriving at the university in the early 1990's in a still-unfulfilled quest to complete his undergraduate degree, Mr. Vincent spent about 30 years in radio-related engineering jobs, mostly with a radar division of Raytheon. But his tinkering with antennas dates back to when he obtained his first amateur radio license at the age of 14.

"I've always had a natural understanding of radio - maybe it's from a prior life," Mr. Vincent said. "But in those early days I could not fathom how an antenna worked."

The relationship between antenna height and efficiency was so well established that he initially kept his antenna-shrinking work a secret. Mr. Vincent also acknowledged that he had relatively little idea of what might work when he began the project.

"When I started out to do this it was 10 percent theory and 90 percent black magic," he said. After reviewing much of the literature, Mr. Vincent started designing antennas with special simulation software on a personal computer.

From the most promising of those virtual designs, he ran tests using antennas that were about 18 inches high and fashioned from copper-covered (Continued on page 7)

## Reflections on the elephant, etc.

After reading the Hamfest Report in the June issue of the Hamletter, I thought I'd share some of my thoughts with the club.

I, like Bruce and others, have always been strong supporters of the club truck. We realize the value it has when it comes to the club's ability to provide communication. However, given the facts that membership is in decline, hamfest attendance is in decline and the cost of maintaining the club truck, perhaps it is, indeed, time to consider selling it. It does seem to be fiscally disadvantageous to work so hard on the hamfest to basically just support the cost of the truck.

Here in the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC), <http://www.w7yrc.org/>, in Prescott, AZ, we have just 69 paid members. Needless to say, we don't have resources to have a club truck. Luckily, those of us in the Yavapai County ARES/RACES group, <http://www.w7yrc.org/ares%20races.htm>, have the use of a county-owned communications van. Fortunately, we have use of the van for many club public service events, such as the Whiskey Row Marathon, the Prescott Rally (a road rally), the American Diabetes Foundation walk on the Yavapai Indian reservation and others. Our county Office of Emergency Management coordinator is very pro amateur radio and we get extraordinary support, including a number of new radios in the past year for use in the van and in fire stations, Red Cross offices and other locations around the county. With Yavapai County being larger than the state of New Jersey, we have a lot of territory to cover. Having been involved with the DuPage County OEM, I doubt if such a situation would be possible there. However, it never hurts to explore all options.

As to the idea of spending \$2,000 a year to mail the Hamletter. I don't believe that would be the best use of money should the club sell the truck. As secretary of YARC, I have made a few changes to our club's practices. Prior to me taking office, the practice was for the club newsletter to be handed out at the monthly meetings. Then, the secretary mailed a printed copy to those who didn't attend. With postage being expensive, and with many of our members having Internet access, I proposed we put our newsletter on-line. Then, I asked all with Internet access to volunteer to get the newsletter from the Web site each month. That way, I only have to mail a copy to those without Internet who don't attend a particular meeting. This practice has dramatically cut our mailing expense, and lowered our printing expense. A local print shop prints the newsletter at a very reasonable cost.

Our newsletter is limited to eight pages, which is four sheets of paper. This allows for us to mail it for \$0.37. Even if I mail a past due notice (which I do to members when their membership expires, along with an application form) there is no increase in postage as the \$0.37 covers six sheets of paper. For members with Internet access, I e-mail past due notices and they can download an application form from the Web site. Some members use WebTV, so they cannot download the newsletter as they can't use Adobe Acrobat reader. Some decline to do it due to slow dial-up connections.

Personally, I'd vote against e-mailing the newsletter as it is large, contains lots of graphics and has to be very slow to download from the mail server for those with dial-up connections. I would ask the club to consider the method I have instituted here. That way, everyone will get a copy of the newsletter, but only some will have to be mailed. Another advantage for getting the newsletter from the Web site is that folks can print it in color if they have a color printer.

Another idea I brought from WCRA is a club membership card. I designed one and print them up on my PC. When a member joins or renews, he/she pays the treasurer the dues and then comes to see me and I give him/her a card. If they do it by mail and aren't at a meeting, I send the card with the newsletter if I mail one, or just mail it by itself.

We also don't spend much on our roster. I maintain the club roster in a table in a Word document. One or twice a year we will have some printed up to hand out at a meeting to those without e-mail and the ability

to print it. For the others, I send them a PDF copy. There is a nice freeware (shareware if you don't want ads) program, PDF995, <http://www.pdf995.com/>, that lets you print most any kind of file to a PDF document. I find it most useful for converting the roster and other documents for the club and the ARES/RACES group to PDF, such as the club application form and many ARES/RACES course material (I am an asst. emergency coordinator and the training coordinator).

There are some real advantages of having the roster in a Word table. One is it is very easy to make a copy sorted by last name as well as call sign, which can be very handy. Another is it is very easy to use it to print the mailing labels each month for just those members who need a copy of the newsletter mailed. Also, as I update it every month, I always have a copy of the most current roster, which I can provide for any club member who desires one quickly, easily and cheaply. Doing the roster this way means we don't have any printing costs for it and, for the most part, no mailing costs as it is only two sheets and can be mailed with the newsletter for no extra cost.

The club has a nice idea for helping defray the cost of refreshments. Raffle tickets are sold at every meeting for \$1.00 each. The winner of the drawing each month gets half of the money spent on the tickets, with the other half going towards the cost of refreshments. It seems a painless way to help fund the goodies and one might win a few bucks once in while (I've won just once.).

I hope some of these ideas might be worth considering for WCRA. With the trend in the hobby, we have to adapt. If it weren't for so many retirees moving here, we wouldn't have enough amateurs joining our club to make it viable very long.

73,

John Broughton, WB9VGJ

---

(Continued from page 4)

Plexiglas rods. One model seemed particularly successful until it lost its signal during a high-powered broadcast test. When Mr. Vincent went outside, he found only a lump of molten metal and plastic.

Gradually, he said, potential areas of improvement became apparent. He began confiding in some friends from the ham radio world and faculty members in the physics department. One friend allowed Mr. Vincent to build a 46-foot-high experimental antenna at his country home, which includes a salt marsh.

Saltwater is an antenna builder's dream. By providing a highly conductive base for the antenna, the water improves reception.

The big prototype improved upon conventional designs in many ways. But one crucial one involved the placement of devices known as load coils along its length. Load coils are commonly used in cellphone antennas to alter their current patterns.

Conventional broadcast antennas, Mr. Vincent said, generally have a lot of current at the bottom and very little if any at the top. With his design, current is more evenly distributed.

To avoid suggestions that saltwater, not his design, was the magic, another 46-foot prototype followed, built on rock. It offered 80 to 100 percent of the efficiency of an antenna three times its size.

About three years ago, the University of Rhode Island became interested enough in Mr. Vincent's work that it gave him office space. After a review by engineering and physics professors, it began the process of patenting and selling the technology. Mr. Vincent has turned over all his rights to the university.

"We've seen test data from Rob Vincent and it sure is attractive," said Quentin Turtle, the director of industry research and technology transfer for the university.

Mr. Straw of the radio relay league said he was impressed with Mr. Vincent's work ethic. "But I remain somewhat skeptical," he said. "I'd like to see some validated field test measurements."

# JULY QST REVIEWED

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

No Field Day Reports, but plenty of other good news in this month's issue, starting out with a look at the 20th Anniversary of the VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator) Program. The article is on Page 32 and is good reading. It reminds us of our own Club VEC organization that keeps on top of the new entrants into the basic license program and the upgrades. Harry Kamer, K9HK, Mike, AB9AX, Robert, N9EF Thanks guys—and read about the 20 years of development of the system. Can you remember the old system back in '84? This new one is better by far!

Did you get to Dayton? Read about those who did in "Dayton Hamvention 2004: The Place to be in Mid May" The reviewer was a "first timer" and presents a report on all the new equipment introduced and conferences presented. If you didn't get there and want to be able to "talk about it", you should read this with care—three pages beginning on Page 51.

"Copper Loops for 222 and 440 MHz" is an article for some fun pipe cutting and propane torch soldering. Starting on Page 58, you have detailed diagrams and "how-to" narrative to build yourself some shining beauties. Very compact and portable,

Product Review "WinRADIO G303i" —a card slot computer radio!

If you want to snuggle up to your computer and tune the world from 9kHz to 30 MHz, this is your next purchase. Get the feel and look of the screen on pages 67-70 and start saving your money; the price for the standard version is \$499.99 and the "professional" model is \$599.99.

Whatever happened to BPL?

An Editorial: "BPL—A Blind Alley" is the title that David Sumner, K1ZZ and ARRL CEO, picked for his super-strong editorial on page 9. It seems that the "money-making proposal for the town of Manassas, Virginia, turned sour and the city fathers have made a quick retreat. Further BPL problems are covered in the "Happenings" column on page 73.

Good reading!



(Continued from Page 7)

Mr. Vincent said he was aware that would-be buyers of his technology would demand better test results, although measuring the efficiency of antennas is difficult. But given the scrutiny his project has received to date, he said he was confident that his antennas would pass muster.

"I'm part of the technical staff to a whole bunch of Ph.D's," he said. "You can't fool these people."



## Activities on the HF Bands

by:  
Peter Barr  
W9UF

Have you obtained your Logbook Of The World (LOTW) certificate and uploaded your logs on the ARRL Website? As of early today there are 7067 registered users with 10,055 active certificates and 53,438 processed user files. This amounts to almost 45 million QSOs in the system with just over 1.4 million matched records.

Dave Patton, NN1N did a breakdown on the number of certificates issued. Logs from 242 DXCC countries, including some deletes, have been submitted into the system. Of the ten thousand plus active certificates 7,473 are from the US. Dave reports that a "good many of these certificates are issued to US stations who have QSL manager duties, or operated from outside the

US." Other leading countries include Canada (243), England (227), Germany (143) and Japan (101). There is of course plenty of room for expansion with other countries and the league will continue to work on improving DX participation.

To improve participation in other countries the ARRL is working on translations in various languages for directions and other details about LOTW. This has included several articles in several foreign (DX) Amateur Radio publications. "We will promote it a little harder after we have more to offer with respect to awards support", said Dave. This would include awards like Worked All States (WAS), which is scheduled to be next. The league is also working with other award sponsors. So it looks like DXers will be seeing more activity from stations outside of the US participating in LOTW in the future. Recently LOTW was linked with DXers paper DXCC awards.

If you're not familiar with LOTW and have not loaded your logs on to the system check out the LOTW Website at <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>.

The government of Iran recently invited ZL2AMJ, Fred Johnson, ZL2AMJ IARU and Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA representing the IARU International Secretariat, to give a ham radio course in Iran. In addition to training regulators and prospective regulators in the administration of amateur services, there was specific instruction on amateur radio's utility for disaster relief communications, and how to organize a national amateur radio society in Iran. Sixteen Iranian participants watched the IARU PowerPoint talk and each was given two CD-ROMs about amateur radio. The group visited the EP3PTT Telecom Ministry ham station. Johnson and Lamoureux say the sessions were a memorable experience and they were warmly received. Contact between the IARU and Iran is on going.

Sebastien, FT1ZL on Amsterdam Island of the DXCC Entity "Amsterdam and St. Paul," is now allowed to get on the HF bands. TAAF (Terres Australes et Antarctiques Francaises), the French government agency responsible for the French southern and Antarctic islands, has issued new rules for "class 2 operators," giving them HF privileges. FT1ZL has been told about it but has to wait for an official copy of the new rules. Look for FT1ZL on 28.485 or 28.495, 24.974 or 24.954, 21.271 or 21.191, 18.148 or 18.138 and 14.274 or 14.195. He is a phone operator, has been told how to operate split, but is new at DXing, never having been on HF before. Have some patience when he shows up.

Also, there are new French prefixes available on the HF bands due to privilege upgrades of previously VHF-only licensees. New on HF are F1, F4, TK1, TK4, FM1, FM4, FG1, FG4, FS1, FS4, FJ1, FJ4, FP1, FP4, FY1, FY4, FR1, FR4, FH1, FH4, FO1, FO4, FT1 and FT4. All callsigns having either a one or a four are now allowed to go below 29.7 MHz, on HF, for the first time. All modes except A1A, A2A, F1A and F2A are allowed. They can only send CW and receive it automatically using computers. Only F2, F3, F5, F6, F8 and F9 callsigns are allowed to use the A1A, A2A, F1A and F2A modes.

A group from the World Wide Young Contesters (WWYC) plan to put on a DXpedition from Market Reef (OJØ) between September 23 and 26. The team is made up of students and they are accepting support either with donations or sponsors. If you can help, please contact Pat via email at [oj0yc@hotmail.com](mailto:oj0yc@hotmail.com). Their main emphasis will be the SAC (Scandinavian Activity Contest) SSB Contest on the weekend of September 25 and 26. They will also be operating RTTY during the SAC. Team members will include Thomas, OZ1AA; Pat, OH6GDX; Mike, SM3WMV; Colin, KU5B. For equipment the guys will take a TS-850SAT/AT, IC706 and IC735. They will have a KW amp for HF and a Mirage amp for VHF. Antennas to be used will include: A4S, 5el 6m, 2m Monoband 15-el beam, Butternut, 2el 12/18MHz, R7, GP 7 MHz and 160/80m dipoles.

Suggest frequencies will be:

CW: 1.822, 3.522, 7.022, 10.106, 14.022, 18.072, 21.022, 24.892, 28.022,

SSB: 1.842, 3.722, 7.062, 7.062, 14.222, 18.122, 21.322, 24.922, and 28.522.

RTTY: 1.812, 3.585, 7.043, 10.142, 14.085, 18.102, 21.085, 24.922, and 28.085.

PSK: 3.573, 7.037, 10.142, 14.073, 18.102, 21.073, 24.922 and 28.073.

The team has a Web page at <http://oj0yc.m3php.net/>. This includes complete information on the upcoming DXpedition along with on-line logs and propagation forecasts. QSL via QSL via OH6GDX, Patrik Willfor, Langviksgatan 24 B13, FI - 65100 Vasa, Finland.

Chuck, KG9N will be operating as V31KG from July 5 through July 14. He will be QRV on 6 through 80 meters from a couple of locations in Belize. First at V31LZ, then V31MD. This will include operation in the IARU contest. It's a family vacation so operation will be early in the mornings then again at night. He is celebrating his 25-year wedding anniversary this summer, so ham radio will not take top priority. Chuck is looking forward to experiencing some good rates! QSL via KG9N (QRZ.COM) or logbook of the world (LOTW).

YBØDPO and several others from YBØ and YB1 will be on 80-10M with three stations, one SSB, one CW and one RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV - they will be using the YE1P callsign from Peucang Island, OC-237, July 21- 25. QSL via YB1TC, Soekardi, P.O. Box 151 BSD, Serpong 15330, Indonesia or via the bureau. Logs and other details will be on <http://www.peucang.org>.

Karl, K4YT, is working on his Ivory Coast (TU) license. He was QRV in the early eighties as TU4BA so he hopes he can renew that one. He will arrive there on or about July 15-19 for a 30-day stay. A side trip to Liberia, EL, is possible, where Karl hopes to renew his old EL2KR license. He will have his TS-50 rig along. Operating from a nearby club station, if it's still there and available, is a possibility. Before the Africa operation, Karl will be in Bangkok, Thailand, July 7th and will be on the air in the IARU operating event as HSØZDG, operating from the SM3DYU/HSØZDY QTH.

Laurence, 3D2KL (KL1X/5 and GM4DMA) is on HF and 6M now through July 9. He is working for a volunteer organization and is doing ham radio in his spare time. Laurence will be on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu (OC-016). There will be updated information on <http://myweb.cableone.net/flow>.

HBØ/IZ2DPX/P will be on from Liechtenstein with operators IZ2DPX and IW2NEF, July 3-4. They will be on 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, 6 and 2M. QSL to their home calls, bureau or direct.

3ZØBLY will be a special Polish call from the ORP Blyskawica battleship museum in Gdynia, now through July 31. QSL via the bureau to SP2PMW.

Serge, TK/F6AUS is on Corsica, EU-Ø14, June 22 to July 23. He also plans one or two weekends on nearby EU-164 and a few days on EU- 1ØØ. He will hang /p behind the call when he's one of these others. QSL to his home call.

## IOTA

IOTA frequencies –

CW 28.040 24.920 21.040 18.098 14.040 10.114 7.030 3.530

SSB 28.560 28.460 24.950 21.260 18.128 14.260 7.055 3.765

Serge, RA3XR/Ø and Nick, UA3YH/Ø will be part of a scientific expedition to Dikson Island, AS-ØØ5, June 15-September 15. They are also asking for a special callsign that has not been issued yet. QSL to their home calls. They have a web page: [http://dx.obninsk.org/dikson\\_en.htm](http://dx.obninsk.org/dikson_en.htm).

VK4WWI/P will be the portable Australian callsign for Johann, PA3EXX from Marion Reef in the Coral Sea Islands Territory North Group, OC-???, November 8-12. QSL via PA3EXX. More info will be available at <http://home.tiscali.nl/~su042021/>.

TVDXA will activate Dauphin Island using the callsign W4D. This island is part of the Alabama State group which has an IOTA NA-213 assigned to it. W4D plans on being QRV about 19ØØZ on Friday September 24, 2004 and will go QRT sometime on Monday 27, 2004. The group will use 100-watt transceivers with various antennas and plans to be active on 10-80 meters SSB. QSL via WA4AA direct (SASE) or via the bureau. A W4D website will be available to view contact logs. Please direct inquires to [wa4aa@arrl.net](mailto:wa4aa@arrl.net).

Thomas, WA6WPG plans to operate from Santa Rosa Island (NA-144) from July 23 to 26 as WA6WPG/P. He will have capabilities to operate on 10- 80 meters, depending on conditions. Thomas will have two batteries and solar panels, which will help to running with 100 watts for four days.

RA3XR/Ø, Serge, and UA3YH/Ø, Nick will be the callsigns for an operation from AS-ØØ5, Dikson Island, now through September 15. The operators are part of a scientific expedition. QSL to their home call-signs.

### ON THE WEB

Statistics and photos of the recent V8PMB, OC-184, and 9M8PSB, OC-165, "Borneo 2004" operation are now available at <http://www.425dxn/org>.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Green Bay, WI: Green Bay Mike and Key Club, K9EAM. Ø1ØØZ June 19-18ØØZ July 2. In celebration of Green Bay's Sesquicentennial. 21.245 14.245 7.245 3.845. QSL. Green Bay Mike and Key Club, PO Box 13351, Green Bay, WI 54307.

La Crosse, WI: Riverland Amateur Radio Club, W9L. 15ØØZ-22ØØZ July 2. The Grand Excursion recreating the 1854 steamboat expo. 21.280 14.280 7.280. Certificate. Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 526 13th Ave N, Onalaska, WI 54650.

Ashland, OH: Ashland Area Amateur Radio Club, W8O. 14ØØZ July 2-22ØØZ July 3. Ashland BalloonFest 2004. 7.275 7.235 3.975 3.935. Certificate. W8RPS, 834 CR 30A, Ashland, OH 44805. [www.summermotion.com](http://www.summermotion.com)

Brookings, SD: Brookings Amateur Radio Research Club, WØBXO. 14ØØZ July 2-ØØØ1Z July 3. The 125th Anniversary of the City of Brookings, SD. 28.450 21.350 14,260 7.260. QSL. WØBXO, 307 Third Ave, Brookings, SD 57006. [www.qls.net/brrc/](http://www.qls.net/brrc/).

Leavenworth, KS: Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club, KSØLV. 17ØØZ July 2-24ØØZ July 11. Lewis & Clark/Leavenworth, KS, Sesquicentennial Celebration. 21.370 14.240 7.262 3.902. QSL. The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club Inc, PO Box 632, Leavenworth, KS 66048.

Hannibal, MO: Hannibal Amateur Radio Club, WØMTL. 14ØØZ-23ØØZ July 3. National Tom Sawyer Days. 21.350 14.250 7.250. Certificate. Robert G. Mitchell, 816 Long Dr, Quincy, IL 62305.

Smithville, TN: DeKalb County Amateur Radio Club, KC4GUG. 14ØØZ-22ØØZ July 3. 33rd Annual Smithville Fiddlers Jamboree & Crafts Festival. 28.425 21.325 14.280 7.275. QSL. Wm Freddy Curtis, 288 Dogwood Cir, Smithville, TN 37166. [www.geocities.com/kg4bto1/dekalb\\_club.html](http://www.geocities.com/kg4bto1/dekalb_club.html).

Ashland, KY: RiverCities Amateur Radio Association, KA4OIL. 12ØØZ-19ØØZ July 3. Summer

Motion in the Park. 28.350 14.250 7.250 3.950. Certificate. RCARA, PO Box 612, Ashland, KY 41105.

Kingsville, TX: Wild Horse Desert Hams ARC, K5WHD. 0000Z July 3-0000Z July 4. 100th anniversary of the founding of Kingsville, TX. 28.350 21.350 14.250 7.250. QSL. Pat Allison, KD5TXD, 295 E FM 1118, Kingsville, TX 78363.

Lake Kiowa, TX: Lake Kiowa ARC, K5L. 0001Z July 3-2359Z July 4. Lake Kiowa July 4th Celebration. 21.250 14.250 14.170 7.072. Certificate. Jim Innis, K5SP, 1005 Kent Dr, Gainesville, TX 76240.

Fort Missoula, MT: Hellgate Amateur Radio Club, W7PX. 1500Z July 3-0000Z July 5. Lewis and Clark Expedition and Independence Day. 28.365 21.365 14.265 7.265. QSL and Certificate. HARC, POB 3811, Missoula, MT 59806-3811. <http://pweb.amerion.com/k7vk> .

Beecher, IL: Hams of Beecher, W9B. 1600Z-2300Z July 4. 4th anniversary Welcome Home Beecher Train Depot. 28.340 14.270 14.040 7.270 146.49. Certificate. Gene Backlin, 26811 Greenbriar Dr, Monee, IL 60449.

Thompson, OH: Lake County Amateur Radio Association, N8GB. 1400Z July 4-0200Z July 5. Heritage of Our Country--Happy Birthday America. 2.1320 7.248. Certificate. George R. Bair, 386 Cedarbrook Dr, Painesville, OH 44077.

Van Wert, OH: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club, W8FY. 1400Z-2000Z July 5. Holiday at Home--Van Wert County Historical Museum. 14.250 7.250 7.050. Certificate. Van Wert Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 602, Van Wert, OH 45891.

Austin, TX: Naturist Amateur Radio Club, NU5DE. 0000Z July 8-2400Z July 11. Annual Nude Awareness Celebration--Nude Recreation Week. 28.465 21.365 14.265 7.265. Certificate. Naturist Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 200812, Austin, TX 78720. [www.nu5de.org](http://www.nu5de.org) .

Trenton, MI: Motor City Radio Club, W8MRM. 1600Z July 9-2359Z July 11. 29th Annual Trenton Mid-Summer Festival. 14.244 14.044 7.244 7.044. Certificate. Motor City Radio Club, W8MRM, Trenton Mid-Summer Festival Station, PO Box 337, Wyandotte, MI 48192. [www.W8MRM.org](http://www.W8MRM.org).

Alexandria, VA: Alexandria Radio Club, W4HFH. 1600Z July 10-0300Z July 11. Alexandria Radio Club's 50th anniversary (1954-2004). 14.250 14.050 7.250 7.050. QSL. Alexandria Radio Club, W4HFH, PO Box 30721, Alexandria, VA 22310.

Morris Canal, NJ: Nutley Amateur Radio Society, W2GLQ. 1300Z July 10-2200Z July 11. First Historic Morris Canal Special Event, from several locations along the canal. General portions of the bands. QSL. Nutley ARS, c/o American Red Cross Building, 169 Chestnut St, Nutley, NJ 07110. QSL for each location; certificate for all. <http://hometown.aol.com/kc2aup> .

Westchester, IL: Chicago Suburban Radio Association, N9BAT. 1700Z July 10-0100Z July 12. Celebrating at Westchester Fest, CSRA's 80th anniversary. 147.225 21.330 14.290 7.260. Certificate. Ray Good, 855 S Kenilworth, Oak Park, IL 60304.

Perkasie, PA: RF Hill Amateur Radio Club, W3AI. 1600Z-2000Z July 11. Pennridge Community Day. 14.250 7.250. Certificate. Special Event Station, RF Hill Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 336, Perkasie, PA 18944. [www.rfhill.ampr.org](http://www.rfhill.ampr.org) .

Kane, PA: Kane Amateur Radio Operators, AA3GM. 1800Z July 16-1300Z July 18. Celebrating the annual Kanefest Festival. 28.355 21.355 14.255 7.255. Certificate. Kenneth T. Frankenbery, 5111 Glenwall Dr, Aliquippa, PA 15001.

Wapakoneta, OH: Reservoir Amateur Radio Association, K8QLY. 1300Z-1900Z July 17. Celebrating the 35th anniversary of landing on the moon. 14.250 7.260. Certificate. Walter Vogel, WB8FNB, 14455 CR 66A, St Marys, OH 45885.

Birmingham, AL: Birmingham Amateur Radio Club, W4CUE. 1500Z July 17-2300Z July 18. Birmingham Amateur Radio Club's 78th anniversary. 28.480 21.360 14.050 14.260 7.250 3.850. QSL. W4CUE, PO Box 603, Birmingham, AL 35201-0603. [www.w4cue.com](http://www.w4cue.com) .

Baton Rouge, LA: USS Kidd ARC/Baton Rouge ARC, W5KID. 0001 July 17-2359 July 18. Museum Ships Weekend Event. General class bands, 14.250 to 14.320; CW QRP subbands. QSL. W5KID, c/o USS Kidd Museum, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. [www.lsu.edu/brarc/USS\\_Kidd.htm](http://www.lsu.edu/brarc/USS_Kidd.htm) .

Boston, MA: Raytheon Portsmouth SubSig Amateur Radio Club, K1WEW. 0001Z July 17-2359Z July 18. USS Constitution Special Event Station for Museum Ships 2004. 14.275 7.225 3.850 146.46. QSL. Eric K. Jamieson, KO1K, 60 Norman Dr, Tiverton, RI 02878. [www.qsl.net/k1usn/event.html](http://www.qsl.net/k1usn/event.html) .

Quincy, MA: USS Salem Radio Club, K1USN. 0001Z July 17-2359Z July 18. Museum Ships Radio Event. 14.260 7.260 14.039 7.039. Certificate. Robert Callahan, W1QWT, 56 Acorn St, Scituate, MA 02066. [www.qsl.net/k1usn/event.html](http://www.qsl.net/k1usn/event.html).

Wingdale, NY: Steve Jacobson Memorial ARA, N2SJ. 1800Z-2300Z July 18. Camp Ramah in the Berkshires 2004 Amateur Radio program. 28.350 14.275 7.240. QSL. Bernard Umlas, N2NVU, 30 West 34th St, #3A12, New York, NY 10001.

Fremont, MI: Amateurs of Newaygo County, W1B. July 20-July 24. 14th Annual National Baby Food Festival. General portions of 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Certificate. Leo Woodward, WD8DCA, 304 N Stone Rd, Fremont, MI 49412.

Various, England: Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society, GB6LOG. 0700Z July 21-2359Z August 18. 60th anniversary of the liberation of Guam 1944. 21.070 21.056 14.070 14.056. QSL. Mike Humphrey. GOSWY/KF4OFR, 4 Bluebell Rd, Bassett Southhampton, Hampshire, England SO16 3LQ. [www.rsars.org.uk](http://www.rsars.org.uk).

Corinth, MS: Alcorn County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, W5I. 1800Z July 23-1800Z July 25. Civil War Interpretive Center, Shiloh National Park. 14.280 7.280. Certificate. ACARES --Area Promotion Council, PO Box 2158, Corinth, MS 38835-2158. [www.arrlmiss.org](http://www.arrlmiss.org).

Henlopen State Park, DE: WA3WSJ. 1400Z July 23-0000Z July 25. Activation of four lighthouses and one lightship in Delaware. 14.270 14.030 7.270 7.030 PSK31 14.070. QSL. Edward R. Breneiser, 775 Moonflower Ave, Reading, PA 19606.

Collingwood, ON, Canada: CERTS/CARC, VE3BPQ. 1200Z-2200Z July 24. 10th anniversary of Elvis Festival in Collingwood. 28.360 14.180 7.180 3.780. Certificate. VE3BPQ, 248 Birch St, Collingwood, ON L9Y 2V6, Canada.

DeSmet, SD: Lake Area Radio Klub and Huron Amateur Radio Club, W0WTN. 1600Z July 24-2200Z July 25. Annual Little House on the Prairie Pageant. 28.465 21.365 14.265 7.265. Certificate. LARK, PO Box 642, Watertown, SD 57201. [www.w0wtn.org](http://www.w0wtn.org).

Warren, OH: Warren Amateur Radio Association, W8P. 1200Z July 24-1000Z July 25. National Packard Auto Show. 10 20 40 m. Certificate. Gail Wells, 708 Delaware SW, Warren, OH 44485.

Port Colborne, ON, Canada: Welland County Amateur Radio Club, VE3WCD. 1300Z July 31-2100Z August 1. Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival. 28.350 21.250 14.250 7.250. QSL. Doug Frame, VE3JDF, 895 Lakeshore Rd E, Port Colborne, ON L3K 5V3, Canada.

## CONTESTS

Time	Date	Contest	Band	Mode
0000z	July 1	RAC		
2359z	July 1	Canada Day	160-2 meters	CW/SSB/FM/AM
1500z	July 3	Original QRP		
1500z	July 4	Contest	80-20 meters	CW
2300z	July 3	MI QRP 4th		

Ø3ØØz	July 4	of July Sprint <a href="http://www.qsl.net/k8dd/miqrp/miqrp.htm">www.qsl.net/k8dd/miqrp/miqrp.htm</a>		Not specified	
12ØØz	July 10	IARU HF World			
12ØØz	July 11	Championship	1	60-10 meters	CW/SSB
17ØØz	July 10	FISTS			
21ØØz	July 10	Summer Sprint		160-10 meters	CW
18ØØz	July 17	North American			
Ø6ØØz	July 18	QSO Party		80-10 meters	RTTY
18ØØz	July 17	CQ Worldwide			
21ØØz	July 18	VHF Contest <a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>		2 & 6 meters	All mode
ØØØØz	July 24	Russian RTTY			
2359z	July 25	Worldwide		80-10 meters	RTTY
12ØØz	July 24	RSGB IOTA			
12ØØz	July 25	Contest		80-10 meters	CW/SSB

Thanks to Bernie, W3UR and his Daily DX Bulletin, Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW and the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin., WA7BNM Contest Calendar and the ARRL for information used this month.

---

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S GAVEL** (Continued from page 4)

3. Think about the club truck as if it was your own personal vehicle. What would you do with it? Knowing what we use it for (public service command post, field day, equipment storage, etc.), how could you economically replace it with say, a trailer, or another alternative? Something that would be cheaper to maintain, insure, and store would be what I would think about.

Lastly, I want to say thanks for taking the time to read and ponder these things, and I hope we can come up with the right answers for our club to these issues.

73 for Now,

Mike -- AB9AX

---

**LETTER TO THE HAMLETTER EDITOR**

Dear Editor:

Is there any fast-breaking news about the status of our 220 repeater? It appears that its performance has been erratic, with complete absence at times, and more recently with or without a private line feature. Where does it stand in relation to the 2-meter repeater for general use?

# THE BIRTHDAY MEMBERS OF JULY



JOHN	N9MWF	07-05-52
CAROL	N6YL	07-10-40
BILL	K9WH	07-11-36
DAVID	W9AOK	07-22-37
DALE	NJ9E	07-25-50

**ANCHORS...ANCHORS...ANCHORS...**

John Dolan, WA9YZL has a Hallicrafter Model HA-1 T.O. Keyer for sale. Please contact him at 773: 283-2077.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued from page 14)

Curious

Ans: The 220 machine is presently located at the QTH of WA9E. The machine is checked at times for problems and at these times it is off the air. We still await our opportunity to get back on the WDCB tower.

## Amateur Radio Toy Store

117 W. Wesley St.  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
(630) 668-9577  
Fax: (630) 690-9335

Sales and Service  
Icom — Yaesu — MFJ  
Comet — Diamond — Antenex  
and more!

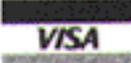


Visit our new Web site at  
[www.amateur-radio-toystore.com](http://www.amateur-radio-toystore.com)

10 A.M. to 5 P.M.  
Monday – Saturday



Amateur VHF, UHF & HF – FRS – Short Wave Radios  
Scanners – Antennas – Books – Tapes – Accessories




## JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st: Club Brunch **1st & 3rd** 10:30 AM Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
- 2nd: Monthly membership meeting at Wheaton College 7:30pm in **classroom #250** (Note change for this month) in the Billy Graham Center. The Billy Graham Center is located on the South side of Seminary Avenue across from Old Main just east of Washington Street.. Classroom #250 is on the second floor at the rear of the building on the west side. This months program will on First Aid Kits presented by Steve, N9OA.
- 6th: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Resturant, Glen Ellyn
- 15th: **DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR JUNE.** Remember we are doing a limited printed edition. **Please be prompt.**
- 22nd: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

### WCRA General Membership Meeting - July 2nd - Wheaton College - 7:30 PM

WCRA was founded in 1948 and continues to be involved in all facets of Amateur Radio supporting the healthy growth of the hobby through diversification and participation. Our members have always been our most important asset and we would like to see you join us for our next meeting. Our business meetings are followed by a break for conversation, coffee, soda pop, and fat pills. This is followed by an amateur radio related program. We would like to see you there to share the enthusiasm.

## HAMLETTER

Newsletter Address:

526 South Gables Boulevard  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187-4728  
eMail: donlin@xnet.com

Club Mailing Address:

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
P.O. Box QSL  
Wheaton, Illinois 60189



## First Class Male

