



# HAMLETTER

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## **“Images over the air!” Can Ham Radio Keep Up? September WCRA Program Tells The Story**

by Jim Ward, W9DHX

If you'd like to hear the answers to “What's going on with Amateur Television?” , be sure to show up for Friday's WCRA meeting at 7:30 p.m. Following the opening business meeting, you'll be hearing from some Hams who think it makes sense that they can be “seen as well as heard” on the air.

One of them is Gerry Hess, K3SIW, who lives in Elgin. From his home “studio”, he has visual chats with fellow ATV enthusiasts all over the Chicago area. He'll bring his studio to our meeting site with a power point style presentation, showing his equipment and antenna farm. He's no stranger to our Club, and has been a WCRA Hamfest attendee since Arlington Heights days.

Talking about low-power and mobile ATV equipment will be Peter Richey, N9HDW, with the tale of how he created a Field Day Scout car with a remote control Escalade Model SUV and two remotely controlled ATV cameras and transmitters mounted on the roof..

The third part of the evening will be presented by Jim Ward, W9DHX, with an explanation of current ATV equipment availability.

Capping off the evening will be a Door Prize drawing offering a variety of prizes:

(1) Four 50 yard line tickets to the following day's (November 9th) Northwestern-New Hampshire football game. (2) Portable 2-meter beam, originally used at the Odium ham fest site. (3) Regulated 7.5 a.m. 13.8 volt power supply. (4) “Secrets of ATM” Journal. Raffle winners will get to choose from the prizes based on their have the first ticket out of the barrel.



# WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr  
KC9HKN  
WCRA  
Secretary



## WCRA Meeting Minutes for July 7, 2006

President, **Don N9NYX** called the meeting to order at 1930. Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by **Janie AE9JG**, **Steve N9OA** seconded, and the motion passed.

President, Don N9NYX opened the meeting with the evening program "A dumb guy's guide to computer logging and control of radios" presented by **Bruce K9OZ**. This was very informative as

Bruce K9OZ described what programs were available to interface with our radios. President, Don N9NYX asked the club again about improving our weekly nets to bring in more participation and about changing the format, and adding training nets such as CW. President, Don N9NYX informed the club there would be a budget meeting in July. Vice President, Bruce K9OZ informed the club there will be no formal meeting for July instead we will have the annual club picnic at Blackwell Forest Preserve from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM. The current club roster was made available also. Custodian, **Bob KC9HOP** thanked everyone for their help at field day and the club may want to look at small containers for storage of equipment, makes it much easier to move around. Treasurer, **Ken N9HQ** informed the club the balance in checking is \$3252.00 and balance in money market is \$23921.00. Secretary, **Todd KC9HKN** we had 20 people attend our July meeting.

Public Service, **Kurt KB9RTO** thanked all who volunteered for the 4th of July parade and said the club ran 2 nets to support this event.

Hamfest, **John WT9Y** reports there is no contract with Pheasant Run at this time for the 2007 Hamfest. He hopes to have more information at our next meeting.

RAB, **Doug W9NJM** reports the 220 repeater parts are still on order and hopes to have more information at our next meeting. Kurt KB9RTO asked about a new chairman for the RAB board since Don N9NYX is now our current club President. President, Don N9NYX said a new chairman has not been put forward at this time by the RAB.

Field Day, **Dale NJ9E** thanked everyone again for their support at Field Day and reports that everything went very well and the club operated as 7A this year. He said we had many new young hams that also participated this year.

Motion to accept reports by Steve N9OA, Kurt KB9RTO seconded, and the motion passed.

New Business, **Mark W9UZ** would like to write a letter of rebuttal on the club vehicle status. Janie AE9JG asked if the club could incorporate in the Hamletter a new column for shack of the month. Kurt KB9RTO gave an update on the public service vests, shirts, and hats and said he would have prices from the vender at the next meeting.

Steve N9OA motioned to adjourn, Janie AE9JG seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2115.

# August Is Annual Antenna Issue With Another Colorful QST –“The Official Journal of the ARRL”

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## ANTENNAS DOMINATE THE COVER—WHERE DID THEY GET THAT PHOTO?

You'll have to look on Page 5 for the details. The locale is Stockholm, Sweden, and the ham is SK0UX. What a combination of towers, rotors and wires. He had more antennas, but the photographer could get them all in the photo.

## DAYTON 2006 REVIEWED

Page 41 starts the story of this year's "main street USA" ham event. All the ARRL bigwigs get quoted and photographed—so you can get a capsule report on what happened—even if you didn't get there. Joel Hallas, W1ZR, writes about all the new products that were introduced by vendors.

## UHF/VHF MOBILE PROPOGATION ARTICLE—ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW!

Complaining about that signal dropping out? Blaming it on the repeater? Read this article on Page 35 and you'll realize that it probably wasn't the repeater after all. More than likely, it is the nature of mobile operation. This is by Alan Bloom, N1AL, an ARRL Technical Advisor. He really explains why we get some strange signals during mobile adventures.

## NEW “FREE CHARGE” (PEDAL POWER) DEVICE INTRODUCED BY BRITISH FIRM

You have heard of bicycles with generators attached, but this machine works more like a foot-powered bicycle pump. It is a “step up” from those hand cranked radios, and contains a 7 A/h battery. Just right for Field Day. The story is on page 47.

## TUNERS ON PARADE—TECHNICAL EDITOR LOOKS AT THREE OF THE BEST

You can hear about the tuners made by Palstar, LDG, and MFJ. And you can see their pictures and read the narrative on each one. The article concludes that all three do a good job of matching your antenna system to a medium to high power station. It runs from page 56 to 61, and is profusely illustrated.

## BOATERS TAKE NOTICE! SHAKESPEARE HAS A NEW MARINE WIDEBAND ANTENNA

The HS-2774-1 is announced on Page 61 and is effective from 136 to 174 MHz, covering both the Ham 2 meter band and the VHF Marine Band. The list price is \$429.95.

## ANTIQUA RADIO FANS HAVE A KIT TO ADMIRE – THE 1928 PILOT WASP SHORT WAVE KIT

Having been hooked into short wave set building by a \$12.95 one-tube kit myself, I enjoyed the details of this three tube wonder with color-coded plug-in coils. This one sold for \$21.75, and promised DX from “all around the world”. John Dilks, K2TQN, weaves a fascinating tale about his experiences with this kit on page 79. It used a 45 volt “B” battery, as well as filament current for the three 01A tubes.

## ANTENNA ADVERTISING SECTION—PAGE 129

In addition to a lot of antenna articles, QST has a section of ads on antennas, rotors and other accessories having to do with radiating a signal. Twenty different companies are participating.

**(Continued on page 6)**

# WCRA MEETING PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR BALANCE OF 2006

## September

The September will meeting will have a program on ATV, Amateur Television, presented by Jim, W9DHX, and Peter, N9HDW.

## October

October will be a program on D-STAR by Mark Thompaon, WB9QZB of the North Shore Radio Club. D-STAR is a digital protocol developed by the Japanese government and the Japanese Radio League. Icom is the first manufacturer to manufacture D-STAR compatible radios, although the protocol is open to anyone. D-STAR enables simultaneous digital voice and data transmission. THIS IS A CHANGE IN PROGRAMS SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS NEW PROGRAM.

## November

November will be and annual Auction

## December

The December meeting will be a Holiday get together. It's held on our regular meeting night, the first Friday. We get together, share deserts, and sit and enjoy the fellowship. Again, bring the family.

**(Continued from page 4)**

**LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – RIGHT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

Just so you won't forget, there are four hamfests on tap—two in Illinois and two in Wisconsin. The details are in the Calendar beginning on page 82. In the back of the book, page 164 is a special ad for Radio Expo 2006 (Grayslake) sponsored by The Chicago FM Club.

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*A recent email from John, W4FID, on the long reach of WCRA:*

Don

Recently I was pursuing the purchase of some gear from QRZ.com. The guy lives in Crystal Lake now but was originally from Plainfield. I told him I was familiar with the area from my former life as a Yankee and had been part of the WCRA tornado efforts in '90.

Part of his reply is below. I did a "cut n paste" as I thought it was nice to be remembered so favorably and probably worth the club members realizing the lasting effects our efforts have. It was 16 years ago this week I believe. Time sure flies ! ! ! ! !

Thanks for helping in Plainfield in 1990...the WCRA really did an outstanding job, and when we formed the Plainfield Radio League ( <http://www.prlham.org>) we dedicated our purpose in part to you guys and what you did. Thanks again.

73,  
Rob/K9NYO

I looked at the link and Rob was one of the PRL's two founders. Kind words from one who obviously knows.  
73  
John W4FID

**For Sale**

Club Wears;Vests Shirts Hats Jackets....The More we buy the cheaper the cost. See Kurt at club meetings. or e-mail me at [kb9rto@arrl.net](mailto:kb9rto@arrl.net)

[Http://www.geocities.com/kb9rto](http://www.geocities.com/kb9rto)

**ANCHOR ...ANCHOR...ANCHOR**

I have an anchor for the next Hamletter: a six-foot wall-mounted rack cabinet, now surplus to my church's needs. Rack swings out from mount for access to rear of equipment. No reasonable offer refused. Interested parties can contact me directly, or Tom Stark at Community Fellowship Church, (630)562-9184

George, KA3HSW

# OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTHS OF AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

ROBERT	KB9OAQ
KEITH	KA9HPL
JIM	W9DHX
RALPH	W9VQM
VICKIE	KA9OEB
CARL	N9GZR
JACK	KA9HEL
NORM	K9GSA
PAT	K9JAU
GENE	WB9JAB
TOM	N9CBA

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 5th: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 7th: Club Brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursdays 10:30 AM Carol's Garden, Carol Stream.
- 8th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39 will give everyone directions to the church and also where our meeting room is inside the church. Program will be on ATV. See front page of this Hamletter for more information.
- 16-17th: Peoria Area ARC will sponsor the Peoria Superfest 2006, at the Exposition Gardens, 1601 W. Northmoor Road, Peoria, IL. Sat Flea 7AM- Dusk; Indoor 8-4:30 PM; Sun Flea 7-3PM; Indoor 8-2.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for October.
- 28th: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

**Next WCRA General Membership Meeting -September 8th, 2006, First Presbyterian Church  
615 W. Jefferson Ave., Wheaton, Illinois 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

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**First Class Mail**

