



HAMLETTER

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 537 Founded 1948 May 2008



WAS - Worked All Scouts

Interested in the next generation? In sharing the joy and magic of our hobby with today's youth? An excellent opportunity is coming very soon. The WCRA will be hosting a special event station and amateur radio demonstration at the Boy Scouts of America Three Fires Council Scout-O-Rama (SOR) on Saturday May 10, 2008 at Cantigny Park in western Wheaton. Many members of the club have volunteered to help directly with the SOR. Those who have not can still be helpful by doing two things.

1) Tune in your radio on May 10 between 1415Z and 2100Z (9:15 AM CDT and 4 PM CDT) to make contact with K9BSA, our special event station. Talk to a scout on the air.

We especially need HF ops to call K9BSA. But VHF and D-Star are wanted as well. If you have a half an hour or more, from home, or your car, or portable out shopping or wherever, give us a call.

Imagine the excitement of being a scout at the SOR hearing, "CQ CQ Scouts @ K9BSA de (your call sign)"!!

May 10, 1415Z-2100Z, Cantigny Park, Wheaton, IL.
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs, Special Event Station Callsign K9BSA.
Three Fires Council BSA Scout-O-Rama - A Century of Service.

Here's the frequencies and modes we'll be using:

SSB 14.290 7.190

CW 14.060 7.030

Satellite (various birds)

IRLP node 4119

2m FM WCRA 145.39 MHz repeater

D-Star W9CEQ (FRRL) repeater

2) Tell your ham friends around the country and the world to call K9BSA on May 10. Send them an email, or mention it during a QSO, speak it up on any nets you're in.

For the SOR volunteers Friday May 2, 2008 immediately following the regular club meeting, we hold our final SOR planning meeting. This will be to do a final pre-event check to make sure everyone has the gear, personnel, etc. they need, and to go over some logistics such as parking, setup times, etc. Please plan to give a brief summary of your station or demonstration, especially if you are a SOR Station Captain.

TNX and 73 de n9hdw,
Peter Richey, WCRA SOR coordinator

WCRA Staff

Electe d Office rs

President	Mark ,	W9UZ
Vice President	John ,	N9NA
Secretary	Todd ,	KC9HKN
Treasurer	Ken ,	N9HQ
Custodian	Bob ,	W9BK

Vol untee r Com mitt ee Chairs

Club Call Trustee	Tom ,	N9CBA
Christm as Party	Ruth ,	KA9RZG
Club Awards	John ,	N9MWF
Elmer/Know-Code	Charlie ,	WB9SGD
Field Day	Dale ,	NJ9E
Hamfest	John ,	WT9Y
Refreshments	Peter ,	KB9KZO
Membership	Mary ,	K9GAL
Public Serevice	Steve ,	N9OA
VHF/HF Awards	John ,	N9MWF
Webmaster	Tom ,	N9WBW

Amateur Licens e Staf f

Training Classes	Jack ,	KA9HEL
Volunteer Exam.	Harry ,	K9HK

WCRA Repe ater Admini strati ve Board (RAB)

Chairman	Doug ,	W9NJM
Secretary	George ,	KA3HSW
Member	Rich ,	N9DKO
Member	Larry ,	KA9KDC

WCRA Radio Nets

Sunday 8:00 pm	145 .390 /(-600)	Net Control: Rotates
Sunday 8:30 pm	224 .140 /(-1.60 0)	Net Contro l: Marty
KA9RCC		

WCRA Repe aters

145 .390 / 144.7 90	103.5 (1A) or 107 .2(1B)	PL Encode/Decode
224 .140 /222 .540	Carrier 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 ,	N9NYX
Photos	Larry ,	KA9KDC
Features	Jim ,	W9DHX
HAMLETTER	eMail: hamletter@w9ccu.org	

This publica tion uses QuarkXPress 6.52 and Photoshop CS3



From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

I want to thank all members for their vote of confidence. A two year term is a bit of a daunting task, but I look forward to it. Having been President in 1964/1965 with almost 300 members was not a difficult task. What is going to be more challenging is encouraging new and younger people to become members of the club. Let's bring the membership to over 100 by the end of the year – 120 would be even better. How can we build the club? People come to club meetings to hear new and interesting programs. What kind of programs do you want to hear? Let John, N9NA, our new Vice President and Program chairman know. We will also contact all the old members we can find in hopes they will renew. At the start of the next meeting, during the introductions, I would like to add one more item. After giving your name, call, and location, please **TELL US WHAT TYPE OF PROGRAMS YOU WANT TO HEAR.**

Let's make a special effort to spread out and widen our circle of friends. Make an effort to know every member of the club – especially visitors and new club members. Bring a guest.

Scout-O-Rama is coming up May 10 at Cantigny Park. IMHO this is one of the most important events of the year. It is a great opportunity for us to make Amateur Radio known to the community, and, especially the young scouts (and their parents). I am hopeful that we can sign up new members. Peter Richey has done an unbelievable job as Chairman of this event. At least 15 club members have volunteered to help. Our participation in this event is being widely publicized in a number of newspapers in the local area.

A reporter from Trib Local even came out and interviewed Peter and myself to find out what is our hobby all about, so she would sound knowledgeable for her article. Our trailer will be there with some operating stations to increase our presence in Public Service. Joe, N9WRO and John, N9MWF, have put in countless hours designing and building the trailer for it's first public appearance. More will be done by our next major event – Field Day.

Steve Peterson, N9OA, has also done a fine job as Special Events Director, having successfully

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WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr
KC9HKN
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2008

President, **Don N9NYX** called the meeting to order at 1930. Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by **Tom N9WBW**, **Steve N9OA** seconded, and the motion passed.

President, Don N9NYX opened the meeting with introductions. Tonight we will have elections for President,

Custodian, and Secretary. **John N9NA** will take over as Vice President from **Peter KB9KZO** for the remainder of his term. Election will be chaired by **John WT9Y**.

Vice President, Peter KB9KZO due to conflict with employment and club meetings Peter KB9KZO will step down as Vice President and John N9NA will take over for the rest of his 2 year term. After the meeting **Peter N9HDW** gave a presentation on the club event in May for the Scout-O-Rama at Cantigny Park in Winfield on Saturday May 10 from 9 AM to 4 PM. We would demonstrate amateur radio at the event.

Treasurer, **Ken N9HQ** informed membership present that the balance in checking was \$5,387.78 and balance in money market was \$23,346.51.

Custodian, **Bob W9BK** reported that the equipment to support Scout-O-Rama has been moved onto the WCRA club trailer.

Secretary, **Todd KC9HKN** we had 23 attend the February meeting. A big welcome goes to **Allen KB9VO** for visiting our monthly meeting. Please mail club dues for 2008 to the club mail box.

Hamletter, Don N9NYX asked everyone that if you're not getting the monthly Hamletter please verify your email address with him. The hamletter can always use your articles, or any item of interest to be put in the hamletter.

RAB, **Doug W9NJM** informed the membership that the club 440 is down, the receive side of the radio works but the transmitter has limited output. No ETA of repair at this time.

Public Service, Steve N9OA reported that we will need volunteers on April 27, for the Special Olympics from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM in Naperville. On May 4, for the MS Walk-a-Thon from 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM, the 4th of July Wheaton Parade, and Glendale Heights Parade. If you are interested in helping out please let Steve N9OA know if you can help out.

Hamfest, John WT9Y reported that the tax bill to the city of St. Charles is still not paid for this event.

Field Day, **Dale NJ9E** asked for a co-chairman for field day.

Web Page, **Tom N9WBW** asked that club events need to be emailed to him so they can be put up on the web site. A member's only web area on the club site has been made. Your club dues for 2008 will need to be current to access this part of the site.

Membership, **Bruce K9OZ** reported that he will be stepping down as chair of this and will need someone to replace him. Thanks to Bruce K9OZ for all his work as membership chairman. The club voted in **Stanley W3SXT** into membership, a big club welcome goes out to him. A reminder to everyone the regular WCRA 2008 membership club dues are due at this time.

Trailer Committee, **Mark W9UZ** reported that club members are putting the inside of the club trailer together. **John N9MWF** gave a photo presentation on the work being done.

Motion to accept reports by Tom N9WBW, Steve N9OA seconded, and the motion passed.

New Business, Peter N9HDW requested \$400.00 for the Scout-O-Rama. A motion was put forward to accept by **Dick KB9IDU**, seconded by **Paul KA9RVS**. The membership present voted to approve the \$400.00 for the event and it was approved.

WCRA Club Board Elections, John WT9Y motion to accept the current slate of President Mark W9UZ, Vice President John N9NA, Custodian Bob W9BK, Secretary Todd KC9HKN. A motion was put forward to accept current slate of nominations by, Steve N9OA, seconded by **George NE9ET**. The membership present voted to accept the slate of nominations into office and it was approved.

Don N9NYX motioned to adjourn, Mark W9UZ seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2045.

MEETING DATES FOR 2008

The following are the General Membership meeting dates for this calendar year. July 4th is the first Friday so we have selected the following Friday to meet. At this printing the First Presbyterian Church does not see any conflicts with our schedule. If a meeting date needs to be changed at a later date, we hope to give all of you adequate notice of the change.

May 2nd

June 6th

July 11th

August 1st

September 5th

October 3rd

November 7th

December 5th

Mark your calendars.

Measure 6 Drill 1

by John, N9MWF

The carpenter's maxim might be Measure Twice, Cut Once but when it came time to drill holes in the roof of the new club trailer the headline above is more accurate.

The design for bringing coax into the trailer called for a weather proof box mounted on the roof and a pair of 3 inch PVC pipes installed through the roof. All antennas would then be connected to the main box either by conduit or weather proof pass-through connections.

The box was placed on the roof and the dimensions penciled in. We then measured the location as offsets from the trailer front and sides. These measurements were then transferred to the interior ceiling and double checked. Next, an electronic stud finder was used to verify the location of any structural members in relation to the proposed holes.

Due to the aluminum roof material the stud finder could not be used from above and when we tested the ceiling discovered that there was about a one inch overlap between the proposed hole and the cross bracing for the roof. The placement of the holes was adjusted and measurements were taken on the interior for transfer to the roof.

Once the box was placed in the new position, another challenge became apparent. Due to the roof racks on the trailer, the cover of the box would not fully open. We adjusted the placement and took new measurements which were transferred inside and verified.

This time all cross members appeared to be clear, so a small pilot bit was used to locate the center of the 3 inch hole and the stud finder was used to verify that no structure was close. Then the moment of truth as the 3 inch hole saw created the passage for the cable. The result is shown here, showing the interior and exterior plywood and the insulation of the trailer.

With this first hole successfully completed, the second soon followed. Now the box could be fastened to the trailer. A bead of silicon was applied to the roof along the perimeter of the box and the two holes. A layer of neoprene gasket was then installed and another bead of silicon applied. The box was then secured to the roof.

Finally, yet another bead of silicon was applied where the box met the roof to assure that the trailer remains weather tight.

Mounting the surface mount boxes and conduit for the individual antennas did not present any problems and soon all eight were in place. Now comes the next challenge. Cutting the 5 inch hole for the mast assembly, but that's a story for another day.

MAY QST--HOME BREW CHALLENGE CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

The “TAK-40” Transceiver, designed by Jim Veatch, WA2EUI, was the winner of QST’s home brew contest--and he did it all for under the \$50 parts bill limitation! This little beauty is a miracle of efficiency and whether you want to duplicate it or not, you certainly can admire it. The story of the contest, the judging, and the naming can be found on pages 33 to 37.

HOW ABOUT A CELEBRITY INTERVIEW WITH HB9EHT?

None other than our own David Sumner, K1ZZ, does a three page Q&A interview with the ITU Secretary-General, Dr. Hamadoun I. Toure. Running the International Telecommunications Union is a complex assignment, and it is lucky that a real radio amateur has the job. The interview tells the history of this important organization and the mission to maintain order in a complex communication community.

PRODUCT REVIEW--THE YAESU FTM-10R DUAL BAND

“Rugged, weatherproof, and dual band” describes the new Yaesu mobile transceiver that has variable power, and a built in AM-FM broadcast receiver. So it is especially of interest to Motorcycle enthusiasts--in fact an inset article describes how to install it in a Honda ST-1300! QST gives it high marks and four pages of evaluation--from 44 to 47. Blue Tooth and VOX operation are possible, too.

DIY DUAL BAND HANDY YAGI

Build yourself this high gain antenna for your handheld--pages 43-44 give you all the instructions and material list to do it. Tom Hart, the author built it for satellite contacts, but you can use it for portable work, too.

PICK A MIKE FOR YOUR NEW STATION

Joel R. Hallas, QST Tech Editor, goes over the options for improved mike performance if you aren’t satisfied with the “standard” unit that comes with your transceiver. Also, there’s a photo of the famous Bob Heil, K9EID, with one of his commercial mikes rigged with a fancy sound boom. Page 76.

Continued From The President's Gavel on page 2

organized and directed our participation in the MS Walk-a-Thon in Naperville and the Special Olympics event at North Central College. Thanks to all who participated!

I would like to thank all of the departing officers who have done a fine job – especially Don Motz, N9NYX, who has served BOTH as President an Hamletter Editor. Thanks to Todd Carr, KC9HKN, for staying on as Secretary.

Dick Cole, KB9IDU, will give the program next month, which ties in with SOR. Dick will talk about Radio Merit badges.....

Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Mark Potter, W9UZ

Special Olympics Wrap-Up

Steve Peterson, N9OA, Public Service Coordinator

On behalf of Amy Kaylor and Sandy Hutchins; as well as my on my own behalf, I would like to extend a hearty "thank you" for a job well done at the NE Illinois Special Olympics Spring Games. Our staff was exceptional and performed their duties well. We were assisted this year by **John Cheney, N9MWF; Janie Gallina, AE9JG; George Greene, NE9ET; Dale Kwart, NJ9E; Kurt Rubin, KB9RTO; Don Peterson, KB9UFS; and Mike Wilson, KC9KHT.**

Amy has already confirmed that she would love to have our assistance this year.

Next weekend, May 4, we will be assisting with the MS Walk in Naperville. We still have volunteer opportunities available. Please call me at (630) 901-6962 if you are available to lend a hand.

The following is a list of the WCRA Special Events that the Club is supporting. If you have an interest in any or all of these events please contact the WCRA Special Events Coordinator Steve, N9OA.

Special Olympics	April 27th	7 AM to 4 PM
MS Walk	May 4th	7 AM to 2 PM
Wheaton July 4th Parade	July 4th	7 AM to 2 P
Glendale Heights Parade	August 23 or 30	TBA

CLUB SALE

**PLACE A CLUB ORDER OF ANY SIZE BETWEEN NOW AND CHRISTMAS AND
GET 20% OFF OUR REGULAR PRICES!!**

DENIM SHIRTS \$29

POLO SHIRTS \$24

HATS \$12

SWEAT SHIRTS \$20

6800 SPRING/FALL JACKET \$69

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517-625-5037

dbirdsley@tds.net

www.hamthreads.com

Contact Mark, W9UZ, at w9uz@arrrl.net for further details.

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF MAY



PETER	N9HDW
ROBERT	KG9U
TOM	N9WBW
GENE	W9LIW
WAYNE	KF9JC

If you do not see your birthday listed here in your birth month, please contact the editor with your information.

YOU! COULD BE FILLING THIS
SPACE WITH AN ARTICLE YOU
HAVE WRITTEN.

Here is an inventory of the club's property that is now located in either the storage locker or the club trailer. The goal in the near future would be to determine what is of use to the club in the future and dispose of the remaining items so that the club storage locker may be turned back to the storage facility and reduce the club's cash outflow by about \$100 per month. Please look over the items stored in the storage locker so that you may come prepared to discuss what the club should be planning to do with these items.

INVENTORY OF WCRA PROPERTY IN STORAGE LOCKER AS OF 11/30/2007

- 1 Large storage box on wheels containing misc. lengths of COAX cables.
Several heavy duty power distribution cables.
- 2 Power distribution/fuse boxes.
- 2 6ft. PVC pipes with ground rods.
- 12 Folding chairs. Most not in good condition.
- 3 Antenna rotators.
Coil of green grounding cable. (approx 50')
- 1 Box misc. junk from old truck. (should be trashed)
- 1 Roof mounting tripod.
- 2 6' 2x4's bolted together.
- 1 Waste container.
- 1 Green garden hose.
- 1 4' tall equipment mounting cabinet.
- 1 Box of work gloves.
- 6 Original cartons from club rigs.
- 1 Box of misc. office supplies.
- 1 FAX machine
- 1 Large storage box on wheels containing antenna support ropes.
- 1 Large storage box on wheels containing club archive material.
Hamfest money counter and cash boxes.

INVENTORY OF WCRA PROPERTY IN TRAILER AS OF 11/30/2007

- 2 Halogen light stands.
- 2 Portable halogen lights.
- 1 5' long table.
- 1 Box misc. office supplies.
- 1 Box of radio manuals.
- 1 Coffee maker.
- 2 Coffee urns.
- 6 Traffic cones.
- 1 IFREN radio.
- 1 Power supply ICOM PS55.
- 2 VHF rigs w/antennas.
- 1 Icom IC735 rig.
- 1 Large blue box containing misc. field day equipment (wire antennas filters etc.)
- 1 Heathkit battery charger.
- 1 Tool box containing misc tools.
- 1 OEM radio.
- 1 Box misc. power cords and COAX.
- 1 Box of wire antennas and COAX.
- 1 Box Mag-Mount antennas.
- 1 PVC pipe containing ground rods.
- 3 2 way COAX switches.

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st: Club Brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursdays 10:30 AM at Peppercorns. Peppercorns is located at the corner of President and Geneva Road in the shopping center on the North side of Geneva. All are welcome.
- 2nd: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39. Program for this month will be Dick Cole, KB9IDU, will give the program next month, which ties in with SOR. Dick will talk about Radio Merit badges
- 6th: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for June.
- 22nd: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm. Go to the club VE Testing website at vetesting.harrykamer.com for the latest details.

Remember the Club net on 2M is held every Sunday evening at 8 PM local. Followed by the 220 net at 8:30 PM local.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting May 2nd, 2008, 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

Club and HamLetter Mailing Address:

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
eMail: donlin@xnet.com

First Class Mail

