



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 547

Founded 1948

March 2009



## SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER AND PLAN ON FOR THE FUTURE:

1. **MEMBERSHIP DUES** ARE DUE. AN APPLICATION APPEARS ON PAGE 8 AND CAN BE FILLED IN AND BROUGHT TO THE NEXT MEETING OR MAILED INTO THE POST OFFICE BOX WITH YOUR COIN OF THE REALM ENCLOSED OF COURSE.
2. **ELECTIONS** ARE HELD DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. JOHN, WT9Y, HAS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE. IF YOU ARE INCLINED TO TAKE ON A POSITION OF GREAT VALUE TO THE CLUB BY VOLUNTEERING PLEASE CONTACT JOHN AND LET HIM KNOW THAT YOU ARE READY TO SIGN UP FOR ONE OF THE HIGH PAYING JOBS HE HAS AVAILABLE. NOMINATIONS WILL CLOSE DURING THE APRIL MEETING AND A VOTE WILL BE TAKEN THEN ON THE POSITIONS THAT ARE OPEN THIS YEAR. (You **must** be a paid up member of the club to participate in the election vote.)
3. THE CLUB HAS RECENTLY RELOCATED THE **145.31 2M REPEATER** FROM THE HOSPITAL IN HOFFMAN ESTATES TO WHEATON AND CONVERTED IT FROM A DATA REPEATER TO THE MAIN 2 METER VOICE REPEATER OF THE CLUB. THE SWITCH WAS MADE BY THE RAB FOR SEVERAL REASONS BUT THE PRIMARY ONE WAS TO MOVE TO A CLEARER CHANNEL AND ELIMINATE THE INTERFERENCE WITH THE MILWAUKEE MACHINE ON THE 145.39 FREQUENCY. THE RAB CONTINUES TO EXPLORE OTHER INNOVATIVE LOCATIONS FOR THE CLUB'S REPEATERS TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE RESULTING COVERAGE, ACCESS FOR REPAIRS AND OR MODIFICATIONS REQUIRED, AND COST TO THE CLUB. AT PRESENT WCRA HAS BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE SITES THAT DO NOT AT PRESENT REQUIRE THE CLUB PAY TO LOCATE THEIR REPEATERS AT OUR VARIOUS SITES. THE RAB WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE THIS TRADITION GIVEN THE LIMITED BUDGET THAT THE CLUB OPERATES ON.
4. THERE ARE SEVERAL **OPEN POSITIONS** IN THE CLUB THAT NEED A VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSON FOR. THEY NO LONGER APPEAR ON THE MASTHEAD SO PLEASE CONTACT AN OFFICER OF THE CLUB FOR MORE INFORMATION.

**WCRA Staff**

**Electe d Office rs**

President	Mark, W9UZ
Vice President	John, N9NA
Secretary	Steve, N9OA
Treasurer	Ken, N9HQ
Custodian	Bob, W9BK

**Vol untee r Com mitt ee Chairs**

Club Call Trustee	Tom, N9CBA
Christm as Party	Ruth Kwarta, KA9RZG
Club Awards	John, N9MWF
Elmer/Know-Code	Charlie , WB9SG
Field Day	Dale, NJ9E
Hamfest	John, WT9Y
Refreshments	John, N9NA
Membership	Paul, KA9RVS
Public Service	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	Don, N9NYX
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	
444 .475 /449 .475	114.8 Hz(2A)	PL Encode/ Decode

**HAMLETTER**

Editor	Don, N9NYX
Photos	Larry, KA9KDC
Features	Jim, W9DHX

HAMLETTER 24 HOUR FAX 630 :665 -7757

HAMLETTER eMail address: hamletter@w9ccu.org

This publica tion uses QuarkXPress 6.52 and Photoshop CS3



# From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

## President's Column March 2009

Club Generator called into a real emergency situation a few days ago. Unfortunately, I was not able to get the full details, but they will appear in my April column with pictures. Joe, N9WRO and John, N9MWF got our 15 KW generator from the CSU during a .....stay tuned for next month's column.

Going to the Post Office Box tomorrow. Thanks to Paul, KA9RVS, for the gentle reminder. Hopefully, it will be overflowing with renewals as well as new member applications. Don't forget to send in your 2009 dues if you have not already done so.

Elections are coming up soon. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee will announce that he is looking for office holders. Open offices are Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary to be appointed for a one year term.

See you Friday for a talk from WA9QZB, Mark, on "VHF/UHF Digital Video and presentation". Many thanks to N9NA, John, our Vice President for setting this up.

Mark



# WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA  
WCRA  
Secretary



## WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS

Minutes for the General Meeting of February 2009

February 6, 2009

### IN ATTENDANCE

Board: **N9OA, W9BK**

Membership: **KC9IJO, KA9RVS, N9MWF, KB9RTO, AJ9M, W9DHX, WT9Y, N9HDW, NV9R, W9NJM, N9DKO, WB9SGD, N9WBW, KB9FYL, KA9KDC, K9OQN** Guest: **W9GIG, WA5MZI**

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM, by Steve Peterson, N9OA, Secretary in the absence of the president and Vice-President

### CHAIRMAN PRO-TEMP

Motion to appoint Steve Peterson as Chairman Pro-Temp (N9WBW, KC9IJO)

### OPENING COMMENTS

(N9OA) Our president Mark is out of town on a family vacation. VP John is in the air returning to town, and Ken N9HQ, our treasurer, is at home due to illness in the family.

(N9OA) Tonight's speaker will be Dick Isely, W9GIG, ARRL Central Division Director. Next month Paul Easter will discuss digital communications.

(N9OA) There is a board in the lobby on the wall to the west on the north side of the sanctuary door indicating the location of all meeting held at the church. The location of our club meeting can be found on that list.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting (N9WBW, KB9RTO) Passed

### REPORTS

Treasurer's Report (N9HQ)

Checking: \$15,922.78

Money Market: \$11,185.02

Once the checks have cleared a transfer of approximately \$10,000 will be transferred to the Money Market

Hamfest (WT9Y): We made about \$3200. Day of ticket sales were down a bit, and advance tickets were up. The forums were expanded and were well received. A followup committee meeting will be held to work through logistics issues. We had a sprinkler go off in the vestibule and set off a flow alarm which sounded the fire alarm. Steve N9OA did the worker drawing for a first place prize of a Maha universal battery charger and a second place prize of an extension speaker. First prize was won by and second by.

CSU (N9MWF): The club purchased (from the advance last month) made arrangements to purchase power gates and received a donation for a 80ah deep-cycle battery from Batteries America and a used 150ah battery from another.

(Continued on page 4)

Field Day (NJ9E): Still investigating new site at Green Valley. Failing that it may be in Panfish Park.

Christmas Party (NJ9E): No report.

RAB (KA9KDC): Most things are status quo. We are moving our 2M repeater to the 145.31 pair in the next few weeks and the data system is now down. The change is for it to be quieter channel and to make it possible under the IRA to coordinate the repeater further north. The 145.31 pair may be at a much higher site. The 145.39 pair will return to the air with the equipment that was in Hoffman Estates. The Hoffman Estates site may be used in the future

Hamletter (N9NYX): Absent.

Membership (KA9RVS): We have 20 members renewed. A mass mailing will be going out with a renewal form.

Webmaster (N9WBW): The updated website is up.

Public Service (N9OA): No Report.

**APPROVAL OF REPORTS:** (Continued on page 6)

---

## MEETING DATES FOR 2009

The following are the General Membership meeting dates for this calendar year.

**March 6**

**April 3**

**May 1**

**June 5**

**July 10 \*\* Special night: Second Friday (Due to Independence Day weekend)\*\***

**August - No meeting**

**September 4**

**October 2**

**November 6**

**December - No meeting.**

**Mark your calendars.**

# MARCH 2009 QST –THE ANNUAL ANTENNA ISSUE IS IN THE MAIL!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **NEW J-POLE FOR YOUR COLLECTION**

You probably have one or two j-poles in your antenna inventory, but here is a new one on page 44 by David Hannon, KE7TTT. He uses easily available PVC pipe with fittings to make it light and portable, as opposed to those old copper models. You'll enjoy the story of the trial and error development, as well as his photos and narrative of this old time and simple design creation.

## **HISTORIC ANTENNAS – “THE RUSSIAN WOODPECKER” REVEALED**

Back in the old days of the “Cold War”, the Russians did a number on the amateur bands by high powered RF on what was known as the “Giant Duga-3 System” antenna near Prypiat. Somehow, Ian Abel, G3ZHI, found pictures of this scary “over the horizon radar system” array. They are shown on page 20 under the “Up Front in QST” section. It really made a noise right in the middle of our 40 meter band—and it sounded like a woodpecker!

## **A BEAM FOR \$350—AND IT IS HEXAGONAL TOO!**

Leo Shoemaker, KA4KIO, shows how you can create this light and compact Yagi. He describes it on four pages of words and pictures. He wants you to be ready for the sunspots' return with a 5-bander that will really work. As with the simple J-pole, you'll need fiberglass tubes. He lays it all out for you, with web site references and his own home page. This not a new design, Leo reports, but is a more compact version of early antennas.

## **ZIP CORD ANTENNAS AND FEED LINES – GREAT FOR FIELD DAY WORK**

The third antenna article describes a system that is highly portable. Bill Parmley, KR8L, is a low-power advocate (HF Packing) and gives you chapter and verse on how to combine infrequently used materials in a super-portable way. His article starts on Page 34, and tells how to have fun stringing wire.

## **SPUDGUN – THE ULTIMATE ANTENNA LINE LAUNCHER**

We've seen bow and arrow and fly casting rod launches at Field Day, but here comes an adaptation of the toy potato gun into a science fiction looking weapon! Byron Black, W4SSY, is a gun collector as well as a ham, and has written a three page article starting on page 67. No air compressor for this machine—he fills the tank with a tire pump. Byron made this powerful Spudgun out of mostly Home Depot PVC pipe and Radio Shack Parts (complete list and photos included) for under \$70.

## **MOBILE EQUIPMENT OPERATING —CUP HOLDER MOBILE MOUNT**

That wonderful cup holder by your center console—now you can find out how to use it as a mobile mount with the help of Lyle Kruse, K0PHT. His photos and narrative on page 76 show how to do it with one trip to the hardware store for PVC pipe and end-caps. And you don't have to drill any holes in your new car!



Motion to approve reports (N9DKO, N9MWF) Passed.

## OLD BUSINESS

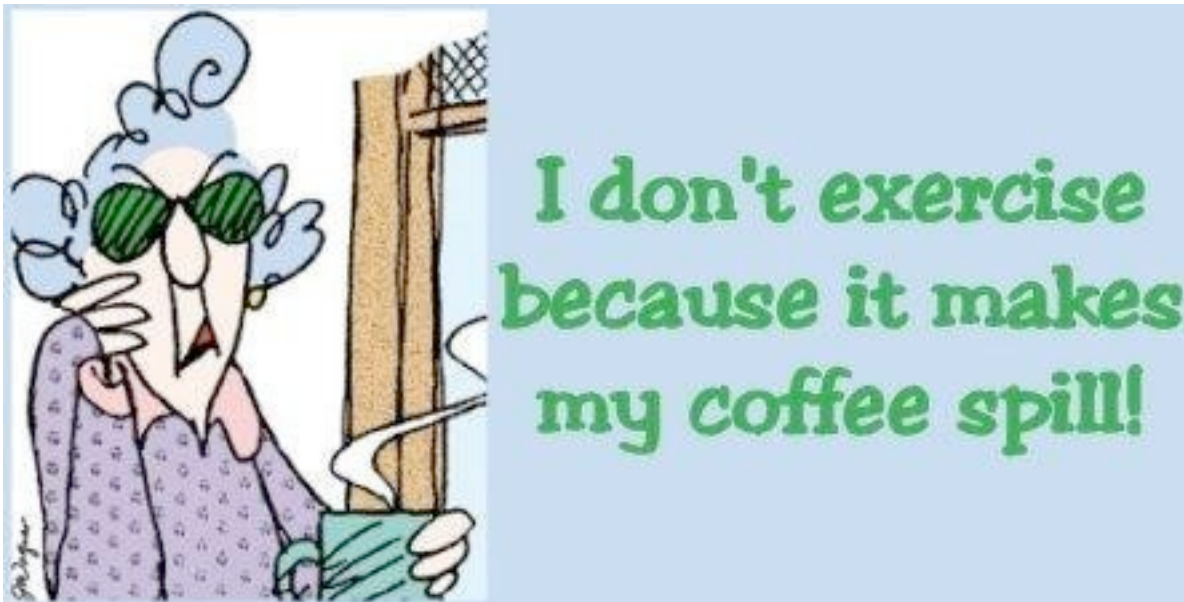
## NEW BUSINESS

(N9WBW) Much of the by-laws are out of date. Motion to set the bylaws aside and form a committee to write operating guidelines (N9WBW, NJ9E) We, as a not-for-a-profit corporation, cannot cancel our bylaws. (W9GIG) This shelters members from personal liability. (N9WBW) Per lawyers in the club, our bylaws are not current and provide no legal pretence. (KB9FYL) Carol sees no difference between guidelines and bylaws. (N9WBW) Defends the point that bylaws are less strict (KB9FYL) These guidelines make no difference. (KA9KDC) There is virtue to having bylaws for definitions. (N9HDW) Recommends not making a “knee-jerk” reaction. A committee should be formed to work on the issue recognizing . (KB9FYL) Agrees with N9HDW. (WT9Y) questions the legality. (NJ9E) Suggests Tom reconsider.

(N9WBW, NJ9E agree) Modified motion to create a committee to review the current by-laws and operating procedures of the club to report back to the membership within 90 days. Passed 1 day.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn. (N9WBW, N9MWF) Adjourned at 8:35 PM



*Here's a tip as you get older:  
Never wear a hearing aid,  
because if you do,  
people expect you  
to listen to them.*



# OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF MARCH



KURT

KB9RTO

BOB

W9BK

BOB

W9TIE

BRUCE

KA0DSF

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.

# Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

## Membership Application

P.O. Box QSL, Wheaton, Illinois 60187

### Dues

Full Member \$26  
Student/Senior Citizen \$13  
Associate (No License) \$13  
Club Badge \$7

Family Memberships Available

Office Use Only  
Year ..... Amt Paid .....  
Check ..... Cash .....  
New ..... Renew .....  
Membership Type Full Associate  
Student Sr Citizen

Family:

Full member call sign: .....

Name on Badge.....

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

License Class \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Business (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL Address \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member Yes OR No

(Please Circle One)

(Please Circle One)

Sponsor (new members only) \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT CLUB EVENTS WILL YOU VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES FOR?

Please circle those which you might be interested in working or serving as a Committee Member:

HAMFEST (January)      FIELD DAY (June)      VE TESTING      JULY 4TH PARADE

PICNIC (July)      CHRISTMAS PARTY      TRAINING      MEMBER RETENTION

ASSISTANCE (Elmer)      TOWER RUN (March)      CLUB TRUCK      BIKE-A-THON

OTHER

COMMENTS

\_\_\_\_\_



## MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 3rd: 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.
- 6th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145..31. WA9QZB, Mark, will discuss digital communications.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for April..
- 26th: 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](http://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 March 6th, 2009, 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**