



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 560

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May 2010



NEW CLUB OFFICERS ELECTED

This past April general membership meeting included an election for the two year terms of President, Secretary, and Property Custodian. Here are the results:

Steve N9OA was elected President

Kevin AB9RN was elected Secretary

Bruce KA0DSF was elected Property Custodian

MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE COMING YEAR

May - 5/7 (Scott Childers)

June - 6/4 (Field Day)

July - 7/2

Aug - No meeting. Picnic TBA

Sept - 9/10

Oct - 10/1

Nov - 11/5 (Auction)

Dec - No meeting. Holiday Party TBA

It is time to renew your annual WCRA Dues. Near the end of the HamLetter you will find a Membership Application that you may print and fill in and bring to the next meeting with appropriate coin of the realm. Remember you cannot vote in the April elections without being a paid up member.

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| President | Steve, N9OA |
| Vice President | John, WT9Y |
| Secretary | Kevin, AB9RN |
| Treasurer | Ken, N9HQ |
| Custodian | Bruce, KA0DSF |

Volunteer Committee Chairs

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Club Call Trustee | Tom, N9CBA |
| Christmas Party | Ruth, KA9RZG |
| Club Awards | John, N9MWF |
| Elmer/Know-Code | Charlie, WB9SG |
| Field Day | Dale, NJ9E |
| Hamfest | John, WT9Y |
| Refreshments | John, WT9Y |
| Membership | Paul, KA9RVS |
| Public Service | Steve, N9OA |
| VHF/HF Awards | John, N9MWF |
| Webmaster | Tom, N9WBW |

Amateur License Staff

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Training Classes | Charlie, WB9SGD |
| Volunteer Exam. | Harry, K9HK |

WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Chairman | Don, N9NYX |
| Secretary | George, KA3HSW |
| Member | Rich, N9DKO |
| Member | Larry, KA9KDC |

WCRA Radio Nets

Sunday 8:00 pm 145.310/(-600) Net Control: Rotates

WCRA Repeaters

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 145.310/ 144.710 | 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 |

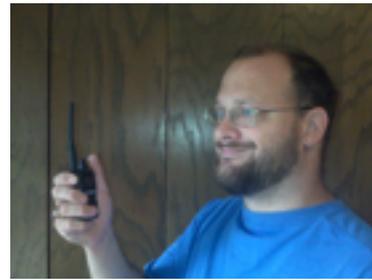
HAMLETTER

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

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From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

Salutations, WCRA members and friends:

Spring is in the air, so is Summer, Fall and even some Winter! That said, a new year in WCRA is upon us ... Happy New Year.

To begin with, I would like to thank all of you for your support and the confidence you have shown in me by electing me the CEO for the next two years.

Two out of three Public Service events have passed us by with two to go. Special Olympics was a success as always, and the CSU performed well at the MS Walk. Before we know it, Field Day will be here, then the forth of July Parade. The picnic (presumably in August) is right around the corner.

I, along with the rest of the executive board, have big plans for the club, so keep your eyes peeled for great things to come.

73,
de Steve, N9OA
2010/11 President

REMEMBER TO FILL OUT THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TOWARD THE END OF THIS HAMLETTER AND BRING IT TO FRIDAY'S MEETING WITH YOUR RENEWAL CHECK.

**WCRA
Meeting
Minutes**

Kevin, AB9RN
WCRA
Secretary

**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs Minutes for the Annual Meeting
April 9, 2010**

In attendance: WT9Y, N9OA, N9HQ, W9BK, KA9RVS, N9MWF, N9WRO, KB9RTO, W3MDM, KA9KDC, AJ9M, KA3HSW, AB9RN, N9WBW, KR1RSH, WB9FEA

CALL TO ORDER

Call Presiding Officer Meeting called to order at by Vice President
John Faber, WT9Y in the absence of Mark, W9UZ

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS

Introductions Entire Assembly All present introduced themselves
Opening Remarks Any Board Member
Announcement of program John, WT9Y Software defined radio

Joe N9WRO reported that the county tower is no longer excessively valuable.

The e-mails flying about regarding the state RACES organization being a roadblock are untrue.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Jim, W9DHX

President Steve N9OA was elected president
Secretary Kevin AB9RN was elected secretary
Property Custodian Bruce KA0DSF was elected property custodian
Motion by Joe N9WRO, Second by KB9RTO to vote by acclamation. Passed

BREAK FOR PROGRAM AND REFRESHMENTS Meeting recessed to break at 7:43

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer Correction: Tom's call is N9WBW not W9WBW, Tom opposed the approval of the minutes that was motioned by W9DHX and seconded by N9WBW (not W9WBW)

OFFICER REPORTS

President Mark, W9UZ Absent
Vice President John, WT9Y
• Future Meeting programs Scott Childers will be doing the next program.
Secretary Steve, N9OA The next board meeting will be 4/24 at a location to be announced. The executive session of incoming and outgoing officers will follow.
Treasurer Ken, N9HQ Report was given. Please see Ken for details.
• Bank Account balances
Property Custodian Bob, W9BK No report

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Service Steve, N9OA Special Olympics will be 4/25, MS Walk will be 5/3, Wheaton Forth of July parade will be noon 7/4. Please see Steve to sign up. We will be more involved in the parade staging and less involved in closing gaps.
CSU John, N9MWF The weather is getting more favorable. The work on the mast and 12VDC system is to be completed by the bike-a-thon. Go kits may also be created as a "Station in a Box"

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| Hamfest | John, WT9Y | A follow-up meeting and planning meeting will be held in May. |
| Club Awards | John, N9MWF | Photos are needed of the old trucks |
| Field Day | Dale, NJ9E | It will be at Panfish Park unless a counter-proposal is made. |
| Christmas Party | Dale, NJ9E | It will be in December |
| Hamletter | Don, N9NYX | Absent. |
| RAB | Don, N9NYX | The power supply was in a faulted mode. The internal power supply is now being used. The 145.31 repeater output was increased by approximately 4db. The output is about 55 watts. |
| Website | Tom, N9WBW | No report.. |
| Training | Charlie, WB9SGD | Absent |
| Membership | Paul, KA9RVS | 46 – 48 members have renewed their membership. |
| VE Program | | No report. |

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer Motion by N9WBW Seconded by KC9IJO to approve the reports. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS Thank you for coming.

ADJOURNMENT

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer Motion by N9WBW, seconded by W9DHX. Passed.

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs will host the following program at their monthly meeting on Friday, May 7:

History of WLS AM890 by Scott Childers W9CHI

Scott has been an amateur operator since he was 13, originally licensed as WD9FXP. In the late 1980's, he produced and hosted the CSRA-1 and ChicagoLink information nets.

Scott was born and raised in Chicago, and has reported traffic and news at several different radio and television stations around metro Chicago, including WBBM-AM, WMAQ-AM, WBBM-FM (B-96), WLS-AM and WGN-AM. Scott was also an on-air personality at WWBZ-FM, WXLC-FM (Hot 102.3), WTMX-FM (The Mix) and WPNT-FM (FM-100) and WERV-FM "95.9 The River." He was also Assistant Program Director and Imaging Director for WERV-FM. He recently moved over to WSSR-FM "Star 96.7" in 2009 where he hosts afternoons, and is the webmaster and IT Director, for WJOL-AM's websites.

He has written the book titled "Chicago's WLS Radio 1924-2007," which hit store shelves in October 2008. He is also a freelance voice-over talent, whose work can be heard on everything from radio and television commercials to corporate telephone on-hold messages.

Scott will have his book available for purchase at the meeting.

QST Reviewed for MAY '10- Dayton Preview

By Jim Ward, W0DHX

DAYTON MULTI-PAGE PREVIEW INSERT

If you're going to Dayton, be sure to clip out this handy insert that tells you the booth numbers of your favorite vendors. Or if you're not going, you can order the merchandise from the web! In either case, you'll enjoy shopping for the latest ham gear and accessories.

THE TECHNICIAN LICENSE EXPLAINED IN DETAIL

After the argument about letting people into the hobby without a code exam of any kind, we now have a refined Technician License with new questions and better manuals. Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, takes a two page look (page 66 and 67) at the new License Manual and the new "Tech Q & A"—both ARRL publications. The Tech license is the "front door to ham radio", and the future of the hobby may well rest on this successful promotional effort. So if you have a friend who says: "I've always wanted to get into Ham Radio," give him or her a copy of this article.

VANITY CALL AND CLUB CALL SIGNS EXPLAINED BY DAVE SUMMERS, K1ZZ

The ARRL Chief Executive Officer goes on the line (page 9) with details on those sought after calls that contain your initials, buzz words, or whatever turns you on. Dave dispels the myth that ARRL has any control over the issue—and explains what the FCC has done to hopefully prevent confusion over the airways.

PUBLIC SERVICE FEATURE—EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION "GO BOX"

If the neat red and white plastic container in the illustration on page 75 looks familiar, it may be because you have one in your basement storage. It is a "Playmate" picnic cooler! Peyton Barnes, KE5DZD, rigged it up to hold his transceiver, tuner, and other radio equipment that makes him ready for an emergency. Give it a look and you, too, can get ready to "go".

FIELD DAY IS COMING –ADVANCE BRIEFING ON PAGE 79—LISTEN UP!

All the nuts and bolts of this year's Field Day (previously used Panfish Park in Glen Ellyn has been requested as our site) are covered in one page. Website and phone numbers show the sources of everything you need to know to prepare.

FOX ISLAND – A DIFFERENT KIND OF IOTA EXPEDITION

You normally think of radio expeditions as a team effort, with each participant carrying a specific assignment to get on the air in a remote area. Not so with an IOTA trip to Fox Island, located in Hudson Bay, near Churchill, Manitoba. The remarkable solo effort of Cezar Trifu, VE3LYC, is told on pages 68-70. "Islands On The Air"NA-186" was a solo operator project that mounted 3571 Contacts in 60 hours. Wow!

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF MAY



PETER

N9HDW

TOM

N9WBW

GENE

W9LIW

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 60189

Dues

Office Use Only

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

Year Amt Paid
Check Cash
New Renew
Membership Type Full Associate
Student Sr Citizen
Family:
Full member call sign:
Name on Badge.....

Family Memberships Available

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)

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 (Aug) | CHRISTMAS PARTY | TRAINING | MEMBER RETENTION |
| ASSISTANCE (Elmer) | CLUB TRAILER | | |

OTHER _____

COMMENTS _____

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 6th: 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.
- 7th Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145..31. History of WLS AM890 by Scott Childers W9CHI
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for June.
- 27th 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. No testing on November.

Remember the Club net on 2M is held every Sunday evening at 8 PM local on 145.31 (-) unless it isn't.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting May 7th, 2010, 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:

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First Class Mail