



HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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CHICAGO MARATHON 10-10-10 WCRA MEMBERS WILL MAN AN AID STATION

Hamradiochicago.org

Chicago Marathon Support

Rob Orr, K9RST

Kate Saccany, KC9IQF



ROB ORR, K9RST, giving the club a presentation on the staging of the Chicago Marathon to be held in downtown Chicago on October 10th, 2010. Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs will once again man an aid station in the Chinatown area. People desiring to sign up and be a part of this club activity should contact Steve, N9OA.

THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE OUR ANNUAL SHOW AND TELL. PLEASE BRING THOSE UNIQUE ITEMS THAT ONLY YOU HAVE AND EVERYONE KNOWS THAT ONLY YOU CAN SHOW THEM OFF TO THE MEMBERSHIP.

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

HAMLETTER 24 HOUR FAX 888 665-8246

HAMLETTER eMail address: hamletter@w9ccu.org

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From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

Wow! The summer blew by fast!!

There have been good things afoot and many more coming for October.

There will be eight of our members assisting hamradiochicago.org with the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. There will be six joining me at Aid Station 16: the Johns (WT9Y and N9MWF) will be making a second "run" at it, and Mary (KC9IJO); Ken (N9HQ); Kevin (AB9RN); and Jack (KA9HEL) will be making their inaugural appearance. George (NE9ET) will be assisting at another station.

The CSU will soon see some additional renovations at the home of Joe (N9WRO) in the coming weeks and months before it will be hauled to its new home that was located with the hard work of Charlie (WB9SGD). The renovations, innovations and new home will all make it a better public service command post, public education center, emergency unit, and rolling ham shack. Speaking of emergency unit, we are at the early stages of an MOU to make even more use of the CSU in an emergency.

Ruth (KA9RZG) is hard at work planning the holiday party, and Jim (W-9-Dog-House-eXpert) is soon to be busy reviewing scholarship grant recommendations in order to select a 2010 winner of the Drake scholarship.

John (WT9Y) and the hamfest committee are busily planning the 2011 Mid-Winter Hamfest. Watch your

THE CLUB IS ALWAYS LOOKING AND IN NEED OF PEOPLE TO VOLUNTEER FOR VARIOUS POSITIONS. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE OFFICERS. WHO KNOWS IT MAY BE A CHANCE TO START A LIFETIME JOB.....

WCRA
Meeting
Minutes
 Kevin, AB9RN
 WCRA
 Secretary



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

CALL TO ORDER

Call Presiding Officer 7:30 pm

Members in attendance: N9OA, WT9Y, N9HQ, KA)DSF, KA9HEL, KA9KDC, KC9IJO, W9DHX, KA9RVS, AJ9M, KB9FYL, N9WBW, N9NYX, N9NA, WA9E, N9HDW, W9NJM, AB9RN

Guest: N9HQ

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS

Introductions Entire Assembly All present introduces
 Opening Remarks Any Board Member Ken N9HQ, Treasurer, mentioned that extra FD hats are available
 Announcement of program John, WT9Y Chicago Marathon challenges

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer N9WBW / W9DHX. Passed as printed

OFFICER REPORTS

President	Steve, N9OA	Peoria superfest tickets available
Vice President	John, WT9Y	Next month's program is show and tell
Secretary	Kevin, AB9RN	No report
Treasurer	Ken, N9HQ	Gave report
Property Custodian	Bruce, KA0DSF	No report

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Service Steve, N9OA See Steve to volunteer to assist with the Chicago Marathon

BREAK TO PROGRAM AND REFRESHMENTS

CSU	John, N9MWF	N9WRO will complete some additional modifications
Hamfest	John, WT9Y	Meeting scheduled for 9/19 at John WT9Y's house. Fest is January 23rd 2011. Ideas for forums are requested now so we can begin to coordinate.
Club Awards	John, N9MWF	
Field Day	Dale, NJ9E	No report
Christmas Party	Dale, NJ9E	No report
Hamletter	Don, N9NYX	The club web site has a link to an updated version of the hamletter with an additional article that was inadvertently left out of the last issue ... check it out!
RAB	Don, N9NYX	Still searching for a low rent tower space option.
Website	Tom, N9WBW	Web site up and going.
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	No report
Program	John, WT9Y	Next month's program will highlight remote ham operation and various data modes available for ham use.
Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	Bob KG9U, Mike N9KYG, Dave W6DDJ, Paul KADZHB. N9WBW Motioned seconded by KC9GO
Membership	Paul, KA9RVS	

(Minutes Continued from page 3)

Tom, N9WBW Fall campaign will start for membership renewals to get a head start for next year.
VE Program 4th Thursday of every month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Scholarship Committee W9DHX Jim W9DHX is seeking nominations for the Don Drake scholarship. Criteria is good participation in public service.

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS W9CXC is at the Elk Grove Holiday Inn on 9/11

ADJOURNMENT

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer N9WBW Motioned to adjourn, Seconded N9NYX at 9:10pm

THANKS TO FIELD DAY CAPTAINS, WORKERS ETC.

The 2009 Field Day is over, but appreciation to the members and others who helped in the effort are deserved—so here is a big “Thank You” from The Field Day Co-Chairs!

Forty Phone – Co-Captains, Peter, N9HDW, and John, WT9Y

Workers: Victor Carter, KB9WXV, Bob Krueger, W9BK, Tom Salyers, N9QGV, Jack Feldman, KA9HEL, Bob Elz, N9IRY, and Jim Ward, W9DHX

Eighty and Fifteen Phone – Captain Ken, N9HQ

Worker – Bill, Former Club member from Oswego and ex Chicago FireFighter.

Satellite Station –Captain George, KA3HSW

Twenty Phone and CW – Captains Dale, NJ9E and Steve, N90A

Workers: Hal, AC3Q; Viktor, AJ9M, Mark, W9UZ

SetUp Workers and Visitors: Greg Schmidt and Pat Byrne.

**MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE
COMING YEAR**

Oct - 10/1

Nov - 11/5 (Auction)

Dec - No meeting. Holiday Party TBA

QST Review- Oct.' 10 Hot & Cold DXpeditions

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

TWO GREAT DXpedition stories in this issue –one tropical and one to a remote Arctic island. **THE HOT ONE**—A rare island with a funny name—Tokelau, lies 500 miles north of Samoa. Bill Vanderheide, N7OU, starts his article on Page 64, and tells of a two ham visit to this semi-primitive location and integrating with the locals. Bill and Bob Norin, W7YAK, made this a cultural exchange, as well as a DX adventure. You'll enjoy the story.

THE COLD ONE—Cezar Trifu, VE3LYC, was determined to get the “only island” that remained in the 55 set up in Canada under the IOTA (Islands on the Air, www.rsgblota.org). His dream to reach East Pen Island near Fort Severn, Ontario, took a lot more effort than expected. In fact, extreme cold, high winds, and mechanical problems makes for a wild story that begins on page 67 and stretches for two additional pages. A broken mast and other equipment failure left Cesar without gas, power, water and fire! But he made it back and has pictures and almost 2700 contacts to prove his success.

BICYCLE MOBILE HAND-HELD MOUNT—Great idea in this month's “Hints and Kinks” column. Joe Dickenson, WT0C, shows a photo of his handheld mounted to the front of a backpack strap. What a simple way to handle the radio and associated articles that can be stored in the pack itself. The article is on page 62.

“SAY YES” –MADAM PRESIDENT SPEAKS OUT -Kay Craigie, N3KN, gives her views on the importance of volunteering, and there's also a biography of the lady ham who now heads the ARRL organization. It is an amazing story by her and about her. When you say “Yes” you can make a difference. It is on page 9 in her “Seems to Us” column.

A LONG RANGE J-POLE FOR THE 70 cm ENTHUSIAST –Don Thomas, W6LRG, has the idea that antenna dollars can outperform power supply dollars. So he created a portable j-pole for his 70 cm handheld. Drawings and photographs display his creation. The story is on page 42

NO TOWER ACCIDENTS PLEASE—Page 43 begins an important article for tower owners to read. “Galvanic corrosion” is an enemy of your underground support system. Because you can't see what's going on, there may be a problem. The author has some good ideas on safety.

HAM RADIO AT AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCORES A HIT – If you are the Principal of the School there's a good chance that you can get some attention when you suggest a program promoting Ham Radio. Pages 72 and 73 of this issue tell how one “Ham Principal” did the job.

WCRA Club Members Participate in DuPage ARES Simulated Emergency Test for 2010

Saturday, Sept. 25 was the date for the DuPage ARES operation of a four hour exercise to test the readiness of the Emergency Notification System, the Skywarn Response, and the deployment system for evaluation of severe weather events. Following the exercise, a training session and debriefing was conducted.

WCRA members participating were George Henry, KA3HSW; Jack Feldman, KA9HEL; Bruce Dillingham, KA0DSF; Jim Ward, W9DHX; and Roberto Beltramelli, WA9E.

Al Fisher, the Weather Officer for the Naperville Emergency Management Agency, directed the post-deployment debriefing session. The overall management of the exercise was under the leadership of Mike Schulz, W9MJS, ARES Operations Officer.

In addition to the deployment of six spotter teams to key DuPage County locations, the exercise also included searching for locations which could be used in the 2011 exercise.

The participants all received the new ARRL "Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio" book, an NOAA Official "Spotter Quick Reference Guide", and a Box Lunch from "Jimmy John's" Sandwich Shop.

(From the President's Gavel continued from page 2)

inboxes and listen for your phone calls when Mary (KC9IJO) fills the volunteer roster for our very important fundraiser.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the October meeting. The meeting will be at our usual venue on the 1st. VP John (WT9Y) is sure to have an excellent program and certainly will not disappoint in the treats arena.

73,
Steve N9OA
Da Prez

Here is today's CleanLaugh - "Dance Rejection"

A rather awkward freshman finally got up the nerve to ask a pretty junior for a dance at the homecoming.

She gave him the once-over and said, "Sorry, I won't dance with a child."

"Please forgive me," responded the underclassman. "I didn't realize you were pregnant."

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER



STEVE

N9OA

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.

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 7th: 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.
- 1st: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145.310. This month's program will be Show & Tell.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for November.
- 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 145.310 (-) unless it isn't.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting Oct 1st, 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:

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
eMail: donlin@xnet.com

First Class Mail