



# HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
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## QST-May '11 Preview of Dayton & Plano, TX

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

### **YOU'LL HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION TO PRE-PLAN YOUR DAYTON TRIP**

There is a busy program, plus plenty of exhibits, so you'll need to check page 71 of the May issue to tune in on "ARRL EXPO", which is described as a "show and tell" exposition. You have two chances this year—first, Dayton from May 20th to 22nd, and Plano, TX., from June 10th to 11th. You can turn to page 129 and rip out an ad insert to make your Dayton shopping easier. And next month you can do it all over again for Plano, Texas.

### **SOLAR POWER FOR YOUR EMERGENCY BACK UP SYSTEM—SUNLIGHT IS CHEAP**

With the cost of gasoline not expecting to decline, here's a way to get emergency backup without that noisy generator. Jim Talens, N3GT, who lives in the Washington, DC area, writes about his experience with Solar Power on four pages, starting on page 37. Several Club Members, as well as the host of the W9CCU Repeater, have their own emergency power setups. If you are considering a plan for your home, you'll want to check this out.

### **FOX HUNTERS LISTEN UP! NEW IDEAS FOR SOPHISTICATED "FOX" TRANSMITTER**

One of the bonus ideas that came out of the ARRL Teachers Institute was a remote controlled fox. Mark Spencer, WA8SME, tells about it with diagrams, instructions and parts lists on pages 33 to 36. The favorite game at every Ham Picnic can become more complex with this one. It uses the SRB MX146 Two meter transmitter module and two 9-volt batteries.

### **DXPEDITION—HOLIDAY STYLE—TO THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND OF BARBADOS**

You've probably thought more than once that it might be exciting if you could arrange a vacation that would combine "fun in the sun" and some better than average DXing. You've rejected it because you thought it would be too much work. With Bernie McClenny's article on Page 87 of this month's issue you'll get a surprise. Bernie and his Dad have taken all the work out of it. Follow their plan and use their contacts and it will be a snap. Bernie, W3UR, and Editor of the "How's DX?" column in QST, did a trial run taking the rig and power supply aboard the plane as carry on luggage. Read about it on page 87. It probably helped to make the DXpedition a huge success that Bernie's wife, Becky, is also N3OSH.

**WCRA Staff**  
**Elected Officers**

**President** Steve, N9OA  
**Vice President** Vic, K9WXV  
**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  
145.390/144.790 103.5(1A) PL Encode/Decode

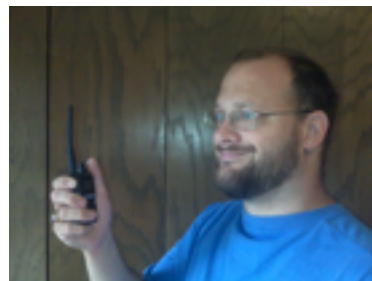
**HAMLETTER**

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## From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

Folks:

At our last meeting, we had election of officers. I would like to thank Ken N9HQ for his past and continuing service as treasurer. I also would like to thank John WT9Y for his service as vice president. Please join me in congratulating Vic K9WXV for being elected vice president for the 2011-13 term. I look forward to his inspired programs and the delicious snacks and refreshing beverages he will supply.

Field Day is coming up followed by our membership appreciation picnic or similar activity. Keep your eyes on the Hamletter and/or your e-mail boxes for further details.

73,  
Steve (Continued on page 4)



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 Agenda for Annual Meeting - April 1, 2011

First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL

### CALL TO ORDER

Call Presiding Officer Call to order at 7:31 by Steve.

Approval of Agenda Presiding Officer Agenda approved.

### INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS

Introductions Entire Assembly N9HQ, AB9RN, N9OA, WT9Y, KA0DSF, KA9ICF, W9ACO, K9RVS, W3MDM, N9MWF, W9DHX, WA9VAA, W9DK, NV9R, KD7MDX, K9UJI, NJ9E, K9WXV, N9WBW, KB9RTO, N9NYX

Opening Remarks Any Board Member None

Tonight's program John, WT9Y John presented the topic of Logbook of the World (eQSL) and Kevin JT65 Digital mode and the use of two popular programs WSJT and JT65-HF.

### BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS

### MEETING PROGRAM

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Corrections Secretary NJ9E motioned, seconded by W9DHX

Approval Presiding Officer Approved

#### OFFICER REPORTS

President Steve, N9OA None

Vice President John, WT9Y None

Secretary Kevin, AB9RN None

Treasurer Ken, N9HQ Reminder to get dues in to Ken if not paid for 2011.

•Bank Account balances Balances of accounts were given.

Property Custodian Bruce, KA0DSF COD visit was performed to inspect coax condition and antennas.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Service Steve, N9OA Special Olympics on 5/1 and Steve is looking volunteers. We need 15 volunteers.

CSU John, N9MWF Resealing cable entry into CSU. 12 Volt supply being completed.

Hamfest John, WT9Y John checking out a new possible location at College of Dupage (COD).

Suggestion to consider moving the fest to late Winter to avoid snow.

Club Awards John, N9MWF None

Field Day Dale, NJ9E Coming up. The old club rotor was rebuilt as there was interest in using a beam on the CSU this year. Also considering options to block generator noise and larger tents for stations to use.

Christmas Party Dale, NJ9E None

Hamletter Don, N9NYX Please let Don know if you didn't receive this past months letter.

RAB Don, N9NYX Looking for a new location for the 220 repeater

## From the President's Gavel: Continued from Page 2

I am writing in response to your request for additional information for block number #8 of the accident reporting form. I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust that the following detail will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80' foot communications tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 lbs. of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which was fortunately attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and excess materials into the barrel. I then went back down the tower to the ground and untied the rope, holding tightly to ensure that I could control the slow descent of the barrel containing the 300 lbs. of tools and hardware.

You will note that in block number #11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh only 155 lbs. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say that I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower.

In the vicinity of the 40' foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collar bone. Slowed slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers on my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley located at the top of the gin pole. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools and hardware hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools and hardware, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 lbs. I refer you again to block #11 which shows my weight at 155 lbs. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower.

In the vicinity of the 40' foot level, to my surprise, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me down just enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and hardware, and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools and hardware, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80' feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and I let go of the rope. Well, you can imagine the rest.

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### Minutes Continued

Website	Tom, N9WBW	Everything up and running
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	None
Program	John, WT9Y	None
Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	None
Membership	Paul, KA9RVS	
	Tom, N9WBW	Renewals updated

VE Program None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mission Statement AB9RN / W9BK / N9WBW Meeting planned for April. Suggestions in email have been reviewed.

Cuban Stamp Book Jim, W9DHX No takers, so looking for stamp collectors.

### NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers Dale, NJ9E John stepping down as VP. Vick offered to be a candidate for VP. Ken offered to be a candidate. Motion W9DHX, seconded N9NYX to close nominations. Motion to elect candidates by W9WBW and N9WBF. Ken and Vic voted in to board unanimously. Vic is excited to be board member and help lead the club.

**ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS** John N9NNA has moved away. Ken will take care of tax exempt paperwork for the club and acting as a registered agent.

Bob W3MDM is moving to a new location in the area and has a 5 band 3 element beam, Ham-4 rotor and tower for sale. He also has a few lower power TV transmitters (NTSC).

### ADJOURNMENT

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer 8:01 PM adjourned.

## ANCHOR ANCHOR ANCHOR

I'm selling everything related to the tower (Mosely yagi, rotator, wire, mast, etc.) and I have no price at the moment, but I'm quite willing to consider all offers. I'll be leaving Wheaton.

Regards,

John, N9NA

## MEETING DATES FOR 2011

5/6

6/3

7/8

9/9

10/7

11/4

There will be a Club Pinnic in August and a Christmas Party in December in lieu of a regular membership meeting.

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



PETER

N9HDW

TOM

N9WBW

MAC

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.

## MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 5th: 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. Program this month is TBA.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for June.
- 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. No testing on December.

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 6th, 2011, 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**