



# Hamletter

## Letter from the President

September  
2012  
Issue 588

### Fellow members and friends:

It is with a heavy heart that I must tender my resignation to you as club President. Some things have been brought to light in my personal life that will be affecting my ability to perform my duty as your president within the coming months. This club is a great club and I know that together you will accomplish great things. Hopefully my successor as president will continue the growth and expansion of our club that I had envisioned at the start of my presidency. Please give your full support to Mary as she temporarily takes over as your president as well as Dale, Ken and Kevin as they strive to govern our club and lead it into the future. They will try, as I have, to do the best job they can as they guide and govern the club.

I also would like to apologize to those who may have taken my remarks at the July meeting that were subsequently published in the August Hamletter as offensive or out of place. The May and June club meetings were filled with strife and conflict. I know I was personally upset that a friend of mine, who was a guest and interested in becoming a member of our club, had to witness a major argument and one member personally attacking another member at the June meeting. I just wanted to let the club know that personal attacks are out of place at our meeting and we should all strive to be more professional and courteous to each other.

I will hopefully be checking into the Sunday night nets when they are fully running-oh and yes Mary will still need members to run those Sunday night nets for her- and if possible I would still like to help out with the club with events such as Hamfest or the 4th of July parade. However, with my hectic schedule I hope you will forgive me if I am not always able to help out with those events. I still have an "Open Door" policy that if someone needs to talk with me about something or has any questions regarding my resignation.

Until next time

73  
K9JWG

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wheaton Labor Day  
Parade – 9/3- 7 a.m. @  
Main & Hawthorne

NEXT  
MEETING  
SEPT. 7<sup>TH</sup> AT  
7:30 P.M.

CLUB PICNIC  
At  
HERRICK  
LAKE  
SEPT. 15<sup>TH</sup>  
3:30 P.M.-8 P.M.

Sunday Night  
Nets  
Resume 9/9

# ANNOUNCING-THE CLUB PICNIC!!!!!!!!!!!!

**WHO: For members of the club and their families.**

**WHAT: Club appreciation picnic!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**WHERE-Herrick Lake, The South Pavilion The pavilion is located off of the intersection of Herrick and Weisbrook Rd.**

**WHEN- Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

The club will be providing the main course, however we are asking everyone to bring a fully prepared side dish to share. We are asking you bring your side dish along the following guidelines-

If your call sign begins with an A or a W, please bring an appetizer or salty snack of some kind.

If your call sign begins with a K-Please bring a salad of some kind. (Potato, Veggie, Macaroni, etc)

If your call sign begins with an N-Please bring a desert of some kind.

**Space is limited-So please RSVP by Sept 7<sup>th</sup> to KC9IJO-Mary Tuohy**

**Phone # (630)222-9732**

**[Email : m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com)**

# **CLUB REPEATER NEWS!!!**

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**By George Henry-KA3HSW**

By now, most of you know that the WCRA 2-meter repeater was damaged by a lightning strike on July 17th. The lightning hit across the street from Carol's house and tripped about half of the circuit breakers in her breaker panel. After resetting all the breakers, the repeater came up stuck on transmit, and the initial ID was scrambled. We pulled the external controller, switched the repeater to its internal controller, and for a week it worked fine except for lack of an ID. Unfortunately, when the power to the repeater was turned off and back on, the internal controller failed as well, and the repeater was taken off the air for repairs.

A temporary repeater was put on the air August 5<sup>th</sup>, consisting of 2 of my personal Bendix-King commercial VHF radios and a very basic controller, and has been operating since, with very good results.

Troubleshooting of the external controller revealed 2 damaged IC's which were responsible for passing the control signals between the repeater and the controller, as well as some scrambled programming of the ID's. The IC's were replaced and the ID's reprogrammed, and the controller now seems to be fine. Troubleshooting the repeater itself has proved a little more difficult, as it was modified to accommodate dual-subtone decoding, and I do not have the documentation of the modifications. I have narrowed the problem down to the circuit board responsible for the actual keying of the transmitter, as well as the timing functions of the repeater.

It is entirely possible that, even if the repeater is repaired, other failures may continue to pop up: this is very common with lightning damage. I will be asking the Executive Board to look into our ARRL insurance coverage to determine whether the repeater would qualify for replacement under our policy.

George Henry, KA3HSW  
Chairman pro tempore, WCRA Repeater Administrative Board

## **HELP WANTED**

**If you are interested in helping out and/or taking over editorial duties for the Hamletter Please let me know  
Also needed- Net Control Operators for Sunday Night Nets**

**If interested please email Mary at [m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com)**

The Veep (?????) Corner  
By Mary Tuohy KC9IJO

First of all I feel I need to clarify an email I sent out on August 29<sup>th</sup> 2012. I know I stated that I was president when I should have stated that I was only an acting president. My interpretation of the first line in Article II paragraph 5 of our bylaws which say that the Vice President "Shall assume all of the duties of the president in his/her absence" lead me to believe since Joe has resigned his position as president I was to act as the president for the time being. I am only the club president until Article VII of the club's bylaws, which specifically deal with vacancies in elected offices is fulfilled. Article VII specifically states "Interim vacancies in elected offices shall be filled by a majority vote of the Executive Board until the next annual meeting at which regular elections are held."

In other words the way it is going to work is that the board and I will meet and determine who should be the interim president until April 2013 when our club's next elections will be held. It won't necessarily be me. I know that I'll stay on as your Vice President if the board decides to have someone else take on the duties of president and I meant what I said about expanding ham radio to the next generation

But now let me take a minute to get back to my primary VP duty of finding speakers to talk about the things that you want to learn about. I know that this month I'm bringing back "Show & Tell" or as I said before in my previous email- "Show & Tell Us about your (Radio Related) problems." Some of the feedback I've received from the membership survey (Oh and all who sent in a survey, thank you) said that members wanted more technical advice from an experienced elmer. I'm sure there are plenty of elmers in this club and I am calling upon you to share your knowledge with the rest of the club when it comes to dealing with the typical problems that we encounter in our hobby and how to overcome them. If you have a great radio related idea would you please share it with the club at the Sept 7<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. I have only one favor to ask. Could you please let me know if you would like to participate by email me at [m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com) especially if you need the club projector to talk about your idea(s).

I'm also excited about the fact I have Jim Oconnell (W9WU) from the Dayton Hamvention coming to our club on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>. He'll be speaking on the new Ham laws that Governor Quinn signed into affect earlier this year. Invite your other Ham friends to come out for this event.

I also want to thank Ruth (KA9RZG) for helping me out with the club picnic. Remember the club picnic is slated for Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 but I need you to RSVP to me by Sept 7<sup>th</sup> with you plus the # of guests you are bringing. Space at Herrick Lake is limited so please RSVP. See the article in the Hamletter for the picnic details.

And I need to thank Steve (N9OA) for all of the hard work he put into re-organizing our public service volunteering for the Wheaton Labor Day (formerly 4<sup>th</sup> of July) parade. It is not always easy to get the manpower out for the parade when it's on July 4<sup>th</sup> let alone a reschedule like this. Thank you for your service and for making sure we are promoted through our service in the community.

I really want to send out a big thank you to George (KA3HSW) and the RAB for all of the hard work they are doing with the repeater (and for George for loaning his equipment to our repeater). If you would like to help out with the repeater I'm sure George would appreciate the help.

And speaking of help-Kurt (KB9RTO) thank you so much for your help with Hamfest 2013. Hamfest will be here before you know it. See Kurt's article for the details.

Like I said I want to hear from you and I'm always willing to listen to your problems. Please let me know by calling me at (630)222-9732 or emailing me at [m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com)

Until next time  
Mary Tuohy  
KC9IJO  
WCRA

# QST REVIEW

By: Jim Ward, W9DHX

## COLORADO HAMS SET AN EXAMPLE OF EMERGENCY SERVICE

The cover of QST September issue is dedicated to the raging forest fires that have devastated more than 160,000 acres in Colorado. Page 73 tells the story of how Hams provided communications support to the state and local service agencies, setting up eight hour shifts around the clock. Also called into use were Amateur Television Crews to video the area.

## HAMS RADIO AND SCOUTING-A GREAT COMBINATION

It is official! The ARRL and the Boy Scouts of America have signed a Memorandum of Understanding designating the ARRL as a key resource for K2BSA and Radio Merit Badge Training at the National Scout Jamboree. Page 61 and 62 are devoted to explaining the long relationship between ham radio and the Boy Scouts of America and new opportunities for the ARRL and Scouting to work together.

## “JOTA 55” DUE FOR OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> AND 21<sup>ST</sup>

“How Big Is Your World?” is the theme selected for this year’s 55<sup>th</sup> JAMBOREE ON THE AIR a Boy Scout radio exercise that happens over the fourth weekend in October. Page 71 tells the stories of two JOTA stations from last year that could give WCRA some ideas.

## STEALTH ANTENNA SET UP ATTRACTS ATTENTION

Floridian Ham Thomas Schaefer, NY4I, didn’t want to advertise his 43 ft vertical in his backyard, so he put the base in a flower box with plastic flowers. All was well working 200 watts barefoot; however when he added an Alpha 9500 amplifier, things started to smoke. Read the story on Page 63 with the title “Your Antenna is on Fire!”

## ARE YOU READY TO TRAVEL IN AN EMERGENCY?

Some DuPage County residents have had a taste of power outages during the strong summer winds this year. Generator or “Power Systems” owners were the envy of the neighborhood. In checking your options for emergency power, consider this ham’s idea. Tim Factor, KT7F, of Newport Beach CA, felt his location was much like the area in Japan that was struck by the tsunami that hit on March 11 2011. In the past year, Tim has worked on his personal needs for “post disaster” communications and made an Amateur Radio “Go Kit” his goal. The results are described in his “Radio in a Bag” article you will enjoy reading on pages 41 and 42.

# HAMFEST 2013

By Kurt Rubin, KB9RTO

Dear WCRA members & Readers of this paper.

The gears and moving & the papers are being signed. Be on the look-out for info on our Mid Winter Hamfest which will once again be held on Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Kane County Fairgrounds in St Charles IL. Be sure to check the Net, the Hamletter and check out the web for all your WCRA Mid Winter Fest news.

I am looking for help so please let me know where you would like to help. ([Email- KB9RTO@yahoo.com](mailto:KB9RTO@yahoo.com)) And if there's an idea you have for the Hamfest please let me know. This is your Hamfest, not just mine. So give me your input and we hope to have the same out put.

Kurt KB9RTO

## Ask Ann Ode

Dear Ann

I recently wrote to you requesting a private consultation. You replied that your fee is \$50 for two questions. Don't you think that is excessive?

Signed, Need Help

Dear Need Help,

Yes. Now what is your second question?

### Wheaton Community

#### Radio Amateurs

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#### Phone

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## About WCRA

The mission of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs is to promote the art of radio communications and electronics. The club does this by mentoring and educating members as well

as the general public about amateur radio, participating in community events, preparing for and assisting with local authorities in the event of a disaster when other communications

modes fail, all while promoting a social camaraderie among it's members.

