



HAMLETTER



Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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Good Propagations

Our club November meeting was a lively event that had four particular topics of interest which included the appointment of Steve Peterson N9OA as club president, the Don Drake award presentation to Joe LeFebvre N9WRO, a presentation by Dale Kwarta NJ9E on his radio in a box go kit and the annual club auction.

Jim Ward and Mark Potter presented the Don Drake award to Joe LeFebvre. Congratulations Joe and thank you for all your work and dedication to the club!



Dale shows up close how the box acts as a framework to hold a Transceiver on the side, and accepts a gel cell (at right on table) to provide power. He will repeat this show at a Ham Fest Forum.



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Event Calendar



WCRA Christmas Dinner
12/2/2012 @ 4PM

Next WCRA Meeting
1/4/2013 @ 7:30 PM

SRO / CFAR Fox Hunts
All Hunts Start @ 8PM
12/1 KMart Lot - Elmhurst
12/8 Downers Grove Golf Club Lot
12/15 Centennial Park - Addison
12/22 Thorndale & Irving Pk on WoodDale Rd

VE Testing
Lombard Library
12/27@ 6:30PM

2 Meter Net on 145.31 Mhz
Sunday Nights @ 8PM

Hamletter Submissions Deadline
4th Friday of the Month

WCRA Hamfest
Kane County Fairgrounds
1/20/2013

WCRA Member Renewal Dues are Due!

Good Propagations (cont)

AUCTIONEER MARY ASKS FOR BIDS

Lively action took place when the 2-meter antenna came up (see next photo)

CHARLIE, WB9SGD, HAS A WINNER

The big 2-meter antenna being held was a hot item and finally the gavel came down with Orrin, WA9VAA, the successful bidder.

KURT, KB9RTO, WITH HIS ANCHORS Ham Fest Chairman Kurt



put these flashy boxes out for sale, but no bids took them home.



WCRA Membership Dues are Due by December 31st. Please send in your check to the club PO box address.
Thank you!

WCRA Meeting Minutes

**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Agenda for the Regular Club Meeting for November
November 2nd, 2012
First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL**



N9JPG -Secretary

CALL TO ORDER		Called to order at 7:35 pm
Call made by Presiding Officer		Steve noted that he would fill the office as president for our club until the April elections in 2013. See Steve if you would like to be president.
Approval of Agenda		
Additions/Corrections		Approved
INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS		
Opening Remarks Member	Any Board	Ron Rateno, a former member past away. A card was signed by members in attendance for the family.
Tonight's program		Dale has a presentation called Radio in a Box and the annual club auction.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING		
Corrections	Secretary	none
Approval	Presiding Officer	Approved
APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS		
Appointment of President.		
OFFICER REPORTS		
President		None
Vice President	Mary, KC9IJO	Looking for volunteers for the Sunday night net.
Secretary	Kevin, N9JPG	Please ensure you sign the attendance roster.
Treasurer	Ken, N9HQ	Balanced were provided.
• Bank Account balances		
Property Custodian	Dale, NJ9E	none
Approval of officer reports		Approved
REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB) Report		
A. Chairman	George, KA3HSW	RAB Meeting held recently and George is now chairman and Charlie is secretary. 2M audio tweaked, but otherwise is working well. 440 repeater hum is still an issue, waiting to get access. Shed at COD is in need of repair. Estimate is \$250 for roofing materials. George had a meeting with COD reps regarding getting back on the tower.
B. Questions		Kurt asked about the stolen most hardline at COD. COD Reps said they would reimburse the club for this. Discussion occurred about the missing coax.
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS		
Public Service	Steve, N9OA	Steve thanked the members that supported the Chicago Marathon event.
CSU	John, N9MWF	Marathon event went well with regards to the CSU. There is continued investigation on the roof vent and leveling jacks. Peter brought a replacement vent that might be used.
Hamfest	Kurt, KB9RTO	Kurt asked for additional volunteers. Peter offered an update on the forums. Tickets are available from Kurt. It was asked about contingencies
Club Awards	John, N9MWF	No report
Field Day	<open>	See
Christmas Party	Dale, NJ9E	At Carol Schroeder's house. It will be a catered event.

WCRA Meeting Minutes (cont)

		Cost for each member will be \$15. Date will be December 2 nd . Members and their families or significant others are welcome.
<u>Hamletter</u>	Kevin, N9JPG	Kevin noted that members should send him articles for the hamletter by the 4 th Friday of each month.
Website	Tom, N9WBW	No report
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	No report
Program NJ9E's Radio in a Box	Mary, KC9IJO	Dale provided an extensive look at his radio in a box leveraging various components (boxes, batteries, antennas and radios) to create a creative go kit.
Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	No report
Membership	Tom, N9WBW	Ken noted we received our first renewal. Please get your renewal payments in for dues by the deadline 1/1/2013
VE Program NE9ET	George,	No report
By-Laws N9WBW	Tom,	No report
Approval of committee reports		Approved
OLD BUSINESS		
A. Sunday Night Nets		Mary is still looking for volunteers. Please see Steve if you would like to take over as lead for the nets.
B. RAB Action		George provided an update on past requests for formal action. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Repair repeater issues related to audio quality. 2) Obtain a VHF repeater quote for the .31 repeater. Used repeaters are around 4 to 5 hundred dollars. New cost is around \$1500. 3) Obtain a quote for coverage of 30 miles for portables. HAAT to achieve this was around 700 feet or approximately 5 remote receive sites. 4) Request to provide repeater coverage for the 2012 4th of July parade. This was provided although the event was cancelled. 5) Request from 6 meter club to purchase our 220 MHz repeater. The RAB club decided to not sell at this time as there may be interest in installing at the COD site in the future.
NEW BUSINESS		
		Mark W9UZ noted his visit with Wayne Kaizer and shared some stories.
THE DON DRAKE SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION		
		Jim gave an overview of Joe LeFebvre's accomplishments in supporting the club and while not present at tonight's meeting, Mark W9UZ accepted the award on his behalf.
ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS		
ADJOURNMENT		
		8:45pm

**** Refreshments and Club Auction will follow the business meeting. ****

The President's Corner



Friends:

It was with anticipation of great things to come that I accepted the nomination of the executive board to serve an approximate five months as your president. It is with a renewed sense of optimism that I face the club with fresh eyes (and new eyeglasses). I would also like to acknowledge Mary's efforts as VP to keep the club together. Also under acknowledgments, I also thank Tom for his service as membership chair and his time creating, leading and ending the bylaws committee.

This is a period of transition for our organization. There are many old ways that have worked well in the past that may quite well continue to work if we shift our paradigms to reflect a club one-fifth the size it was in the past. The point is to accept the club for what it is today and not lament the days of old where call signs most of us don't know are elevated to the status of prophets in story. I plan to guide the club through the efforts of the executive board, and I thank Mary, Kevin, Ken and Dale for their efforts as we ensure the club lives up to its mission statement. Found in those words is what the club is today.

Kurt and his esteemed committee have been feverishly preparing for the Mid-Winter Hamfest (doomsday preppers?) Their efforts have not gone unnoticed by this CEO, and I hope they aren't lost on you. Mary -- along with a band of fiercely trained telephone warriors -- may have already or soon will be contacting you in order to secure your support through several shifts filling vital, and rather simple, tasks relative to the operation of our only fundraiser.

The annual holiday party is upon us. As said in the words of our chair: WCRA Christmas Party will be held on Sunday Dec. 2, 2012 at 4:00 PM.

The location will be at the home of Carol ... KB9FYL... 0N490 Evans Ave Wheaton IL 60187. The cost will be \$15.00 per person. This will be a catered affair. Reservations must be made no later than Saturday November 24, 2012 Call Ruth ... Thank you to Ruth for your diligent and always creative planning for this event and to Carol for volunteering your home for the event.

We remain in need of a field day chairman. I would like to hand over the club to my successor with the assurance that the club will hold our largest amateur radio social event. Please contact me at n9oa@w9ccu.org if you interested in accepting this enjoyable challenge.

One final note, I am aware of three who have renewed membership, and there are a few life members. I now address the remaining majority: Dues are due by December 31. The period beginning January 1 and ending with the April meeting are strictly a grace period to pay past due dues before members are dropped for non payment of dues. The pattern of leniency that I personally sponsored for the past three years end and the April meeting will be treated as an absolute deadline. The PO Box will be checked for the last time the day before the meeting, and any checks not received at that time will need to be tendered at the meeting before it is called to order. Any duplication of checks will be handled by returning the second check at the May meeting. This may seem harsh, but the renewal system has been abused and the path must be set straight.

Please feel free to contact me at any time via the roster or at n9oa@w9ccu.org to discuss any club matter or to volunteer. Please expect to leave a voicemail if contacting me via phone. All messages and e-mails will be acknowledged within 24 hours.

73,
Steve N9OA
President (again)

QST Review

QST CHRISTMAS ISSUE – PUT IT OUT FOR XYL AND VISITORS' VIEWING

By Jim Ward, W9DHX



DON'T BE SUBTLE—LET EVERYONE KNOW YOU LIKE HAM GIFTS!

The current issue has 168 pages full of gift ideas, as well as great stories about adventures in radioland. Leave your copy out as a hint that there's plenty of shelf room in the shack for new rigs and modern equipment. If all else fails, buy yourself a present.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND DXPELITION SETS RECORDS FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE

Two British amateurs began to plan for their 2011 event two years ahead of time. Don Field, G3XTT, and Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, developed the idea of shipping all their heavy gear in a container six months ahead of the actual visit. Their research and execution of the journey to the middle of the Pacific makes for interesting reading in a four page story on pages 55-58. The 27 operators involved managed to log 213,000 contacts on frequencies from 6 meters to 160 meters. When the group packed up to go home, stations were still calling!

“PELICAN” CASES FOR SAFE TRANSPORT OF HAM GEAR

Cardboard boxes are not the greatest for carrying precious ham gear, and Rick Palm, K1CE, has a suggestion on page 68 of this issue. Use the popular precious transceiver. The and you can customize the favorite gear. The Navy Seals their guns on the Bin Laden



suggestion on page 68 of this “Pelican” cases for your cases are almost indestructible foam interiors to match your used these cases to protect raid.

FCC NEWS: NEW SPECIAL COUNSEL NAMED AND RULE CHANGES PROPOSED

Page 59 announces Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, has been replaced by Laura Smith, an experienced FCC Staffer. She answers a variety of questions about enforcement on pages 59 and 60. In a longer article on pages 64 and 65, the FCC proposes to change licensing rules and allow additional emission types. A “Notice of Proposed Rulemaking” is the formal title. The ARRL response to these proposed changes is covered in the story by S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA.

Wanted...

WCRA is still in need of a few net control operators for the Sunday night net. If interested, please contact Mary KC9IJO at m2e1990@gmail.com

WCRA Christmas Dinner

WCRA Christmas Party will be held on Sunday Dec. 2, 2012 at 4:00 PM.

The location will be at the home of Carol Schroeder KB9FYL.

The address is:

Carol Schroeder

0N490 Evans Ave. Wheaton, IL 60187.



The cost will be \$15.00 per person. This will be a catered affair.

Reservations must be made no later than Saturday November 24, 2012

The Veep Corner

I can't believe 2012 is almost over and I have already begun to look ahead to 2013. I'm already in contact with the church about booking dates in 2013 and I'm already working on programs for 2013. Here are some things to look forward to in 2013.



In January we have our club hamfest (and yes I am helping Kurt KB9RTO with manpower again) which will be the topic of the club meeting.

In February we may need to meet on Feb 8th instead of Feb 1st due to a conflict with the church (details to be given in the January Hamletter) and we can sit back and enjoy Kevin give his presentation on a fabulous ham museum that he discovered.

In March I'm trying to have an introductory weather spotting course (if I can get the right speaker to talk to us about it) just in time for severe weather season to begin.

In April there are club officer elections and maybe someone would be interested in taking over my position?

May is to be determined and starting to plan for Field Day.

I hope I'll see each and every one of you at the Club Christmas Party. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

2012 ARRL Field Day Update

FIELD DAY 2012 REPORT

This year's Field Day statistics appeared in the December Issue of QST—our 3474 hard earned points in Classification 4-A were reported on page 77. We were somewhat behind the highest scoring 4-A Club--Palo Alto (CA) Amateur Radio Club (W6ARA)-- with 17,158. But we were ahead of the Cherokee City Club (K5JVL) with only 388!

Hamfest Update

HAMFEST 2013



Once again we are looking for workers to help out at our club's primary fundraiser. We will be holding the event once again at the Kane County Fairgrounds in St. Charles IL. The weekend of January 19th and 20th. We need volunteers to help out in the following ways:

Saturday Jan 19th 2013

Set up workers need from 1 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Move vendors in 4 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Sunday Jan 20th 2013

Move Vendors In 5 a.m. – 7 a.m.

Ticket Sellers Two shifts 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Need at least 3)

Ticket Takers two shifts 7:30 a.m.- 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Parking lot Attendants 7 a.m. - 10 a.m. (need at least 3)

Club Table

8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and from 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Dear Ann Ode...

Dear Ann Ode,

I heard you complaining on the repeater that you no longer have your trusty low-band rig.

I thought you owned an expensive rig that was waterproof, dust-proof, shock-proof and theft-proof. What happened?

Signed, Concerned

Dear Concerned,

It caught fire.

Dear Ann Ode,

I heard you got so mad when you lost the election at the ham radio club that you dashed out

of the building and took a flying leap to the curb----landing on your posterior.

Were you hurt?

Signed, Wondering

Dear Wondering,

Not really, but I'd sure like to find the varmint who moved my convertible.



CQ Hamletter Contributors

I'm excited to lead the Hamletter and would like it to be an extension of our club meetings to help keep the members connected to one another. There are many amateur radio related activities taking place each month and I encourage you to take pictures and share a brief note with myself. I'm interested in both club organized events and related things you may be doing yourself. Here are some example ideas to consider: working on your shack, participating in a contest, enhancing or fixing the CSU, working on the repeater, or helping out at a club event. Send me whatever you have and I'll get it added.

Kevin - N9JPG

WCRA General Membership Meetings

WCRA meet the first friday of most months at the First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton at 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 snacks. This is followed by an amateur radio related program. We would like to see you there to share the enthusiasm. If you want to join the WCRA, visit our web site to get the application and join us at an upcoming meeting!

WCRA Officers

President - Steve Peterson, N9OA
Vice President - Mary Tuohy, KC9IJO
Treasurer - Ken Kwasnewski, N9HQ
Secretary - Kevin Oleniczak, N9JPG
Custodian - Dale Kwarta, NJ9E

HAMLETTER

Newsletter Address:
Kevin Oleniczak
0N751 Woods Ave.
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
eMail: N9JPG.ham@gmail.com

Club Mailing Address: Wheaton
Community Radio Amateurs
P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
(630) 604-0157
wcra@w9ccu.org

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs is to further the art of radio communications and electronics by mentoring anyone with like interests, participating in community events, preparedness in assisting in the event of a disaster where other communication modes can fail, while promoting social camaraderie among its members.