



HAMLETTER



Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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Good Propagations

December brought the annual Christmas gathering for club members which was hosted by Carol Schroeder KB9FYL. Several attended and enjoyed each others company while reflecting on the year.



We hope you had a memorable and enjoyable time this Christmas season and wish you and your family a Happy New Year!



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Event Calendar



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

SRO / CFAR Fox Hunts
All Hunts Start @ 8PM
1/5 KMart Lot - Elmhurst
1/12 Downers Grove Golf Club Lot
1/19 Centennial Park - Addison
1/26 Thorndale & Irving Pk on WoodDale Rd

WCRA Hamfest
Kane County Fairgrounds
1/20/2013

VE Testing
Lombard Library
1/24@ 6:30PM

2 Meter Net on 145.31 Mhz
Sunday Nights @ 8PM

Hamletter Submissions Deadline
4th Friday of the Month

WCRA Member Renewel Dues are Due!

The President's Corner



Friends,

Thank you to the eight members who paid their 2013 dues by the December 31 deadline. For the remaining members -- whose dues are past due -- please send in your payment as soon as possible. The grace period specified in bylaws ends when the April meeting is called to order. Unlike recent years, there has been plenty of notice, and I will not be asking the executive board for a motion to defer the dropping of members for non-payment of dues.

Ruth did a fabulous job of putting on another fine Christmas party, and Carol's hosting of it was much appreciated. For future holiday parties, it is important to be sure to attend with the number whom you have RSVP'd. For the past couple of years this issue has existed, and with declining hamfest profits the club cannot afford to shoulder that burden. If you indicated an RSVP to the holiday party or signed up at the meeting, you obligated yourself to a debt to the club in the amount of \$15 per attendee. If you have not met this obligation, please send a check to Ken post haste; we have \$60.00 in receivables for the event.

Speaking of the hamfest, Mary may have already or soon will be calling for your assistance with tasks at hamfest. Please be generous with your time. Also, please help Rich with ticket sales. Advance ticket sales guarantee profitability for the hamfest. I know Kurt would like to show a profit for the event.

I look forward to seeing you at our January 4 meeting. At the meeting, you will see something new next to the refreshments: a jar. Refreshments costs have been on the rise, and dues combined with hamfest revenue are insufficient to continue the level of refreshments we have been enjoying. Please consider tossing a couple quarters or a buck in the jar if you enjoy our treats.

73,

Steve Peterson
Amateur Radio Station N9OA
President

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

Thursday WCRA Brunch



BRUNCH CARRIES ON WITH RESTAURANT RE-NAME

It formerly was Peppercorn's, but now it is Lumanis Café. Don't be confused, it is still the WCRA twice-a-month Brunch on the first and third Thursday morning at 10 a.m. It was started a long time ago at a Lombard downtown café, moved to West Chicago, Glen Ellyn and for the last few years it has been in



Carol Stream on Geneva Road near President St. The ham who can tell you the history is "Mac", Gene McAleer, W9LIW. Former Club President and manager of the "Teletype" net, Gene is a WW II vet and Air Force reservist, who retired as a Colonel and also from a career as



an airline pilot.

Other members of typical Thursday get together are shown in the photo. They have their own stories about ham and career experiences to share twice a month.

YL's are welcome, too, as shown in the second photo. On holidays they like to share craft gifts that may be their own handiwork, or purchased on a shopping trip. "Liz" McAleer shows off some cleverly made snowmen.

Come join them and share your ham radio or personal story. The menu is terrific and the waitress will learn your "regular" order, It is a friendly bunch!

Attendees in the top Photo (left to right) Jim Duffin, W9OSW; Jim Ward, W9DHX; Gene McAleer, W9LIW; Bob Schlotzer, NV9R; Orrin Atkinson, WA9VAA; Bob Elz, N9IRY; and Bob Briscoe, KG9U.

Jim Ward



February Program Sneek-peek

Join me for a rare opportunity to see the historic amateur radio museum in the making of all operational equipment, past and present. George Ulm, W9EVT has been a ham for over 74 years and has amassed a huge collection I had the opportunity to see with my own eyes. I took a trip to Washington Island in Wisconsin to see him and hear all about his collection and the endless knowledge of radio history he shared. Join me at our upcoming club meeting to watch the entire video!

Here's a sneek preview you can watch...

http://youtu.be/_mRAb4C082o

Kevin N9JPG



YouTube

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

QST Review

QST-January 2013 Celebrates
The Homebrew Spirit
By Jim Ward, W9DHX



FOUR HOMEBREW PROJECTS ARE ILLUSTRATED ON THIS MONTH'S COVER
An oval Hickory Farm Ham container that houses a 20 meter "Rockmite" transceiver is shown at the cover's lower left; at the top of the cover is a 1974 vintage 40 meter CW transmitter. In the center is a 6 meter receiver with a digital station clock being displayed at the bottom. Details are on the top of page 5.

RETIRED INVENTOR CREATES HIS SHACK TO HOLD A LIFETIME OF TREASURES

"A Trip to Homebrew Heaven" begins on page 75 and tells about a father and son visiting with one of the "Founding Fathers of the personal computer." They found some unusual items, including a homebrew pipe organ.

NEW LEVELS OF SOPHISTICATION IN THE DIRECTION-FINDING SPORT

John Portune, W6NBC, approaches the "home brewing" aspects of direction-finding equipment in an article on pages 44-45. Also, his five diagrams and photos cover the ways in which you can enhance your effectiveness with some personal modifications.

LOW PROFILE VERTICAL KEEPS NEIGHBORS HAPPY IN SUN CITY CENTER, FL.

Burt Yellin, K2STV, didn't neighborhood, so he did a retractable three-piece that keeps the antenna out 37.



want to get into trouble in the special installation job on his vertical. Read about his design of sight on pages 36 through

RADIO IN RETIREMENT—ONE HAM'S TALE

Grant Bagley, W3GB, didn't want to kiss his radio hobby goodbye when he and his wife decided to move to a retirement home in suburban Maryland. However, he got rid of his tower and most of his gear. But to his surprise he discovered that other hams were on premises with the same regret, and before long, a Ham Radio Club was formed. This story is a great one to read if you might be thinking of a retirement residence! It begins on page 70.

The Veep Corner

2013 is upon us already and I'm looking forward to the upcoming year. I'm trying to plan out a couple of months worth of meeting programs and my goal is to try and keep them the same caliber that I've tried to achieve in 2012.



Here is the tentative schedule so far:

January – WCRA Hamfest

February - A video tour of a personal ham museum (presented by Kevin N9JPG)

March - Introduction to weather spotting (tentative still have to confirm with instructor).

Also, President Steve has assigned me the duty of trying to keep the Sunday night net going. Now I know that I haven't had much of an opportunity to check into the Sunday night net due to my job (I often have to work Sunday night and I am not allowed to have my radio on the floor with me) but I'm hoping to change this in January as my schedule becomes a little more open. Meanwhile, if there is someone who wishes to take over the Sunday night net full time please contact me at m2e1990@gmail.com or president Steve.

Here's hoping the New Year is filled with success, happiness, and lots of Ham related activities.

Mary Tuohy
KC9IJO

2013 Field Day Planning!

Planning for 2013 Field Day is underway and Joe LeFebvre N9WRO and Peter Richey N9HDW have been discussing the possibility of using alternate power sources for this year. Those interested in discussing this should seek either one of them out and share their ideas. Think about how this twist on our annual contest can help increase your disaster preparedness while reflecting on this...

'Twas the month after Christmas
and all through the club,
hams were thinking hamfest,
not Field Day, alas.

Then one said, "Power, let's talk."
"Alternative, creative, a different walk."
"Run the rigs on solar, and wind,
batteries, even pedals," he grinned.

An invitation is extended
for the meeting in January,
for discussion and thought,
of how to do Field Day on power,
created from naught.

Peter Richey

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.

Stage



Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,

Everyone knows you are an incredible tightwad, so I am quite surprised to see that you bought two raffle tickets at the recent hamfest.

You certainly won a nice VHF rig, so why do you seem so unhappy?

Signed, A non-winner

Dear Non,

Because I wasted a buck when I bought that second ticket.

Dear Ann Ode,

I am forty years old and have been a General class licensee for twenty years. Today I finally passed my Extra Class exam. Wow! Please tell your wonderful VE team that I feel like a new man.

Signed, Delighted

Dear Delighted,

I do, too, but I'll probably go home to the same old one.

If you would like to ask Ann Ode a question and seek her help, then send an email to her yourself at ann.ode@w9ccu.org

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

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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.