



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 605 February 2014



HAMFEST!!!!

WCRA Team Puts 2014 Hamfest Together Despite Record Freezing Polar Weather

By Jim Ward, W9DHX



Bundled in layered cold weather outfits, Hams from around the Midwest slipped and slid into the Kane County Exposition Center on January 19th to get their electronic shopping needs fulfilled, soak up amateur radio knowledge and upgrade their licenses. Kurt Rubin, KB9RTO, Event Chairman and his team began Saturday to set up for the 8 a.m. starting time.

The Club's Mobile Communication Support Unit and all Exhibitors stood ready as the visitors headed for the drawing barrel to deposit the raffle ticket stubs. Spreading out through the Exhibit Hall, Hams scooped up bargains and "hard to get" parts.



A ham tosses in his "Lucky" ticket.

Inside...



- [Pg 1-Hamfest](#)
- [Pg 5-Minutes](#)
- [Pg 8-President's article](#)
- [Pg 9-QST Review](#)
- [Pg 10-Ask Ann Ode/Fox Hunt Report](#)
- [Pg 14-For Sale](#)
- [Pg 15-In The Community.](#)

Event Calendar



- Sunday Night Nets
20hrs
02/02-CANCELLED
02/09-W9DHX
02/16-KA3HSW
02/23-TBA.
-
- 02/07 1930 hrs
Monthly Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, Wheaton IL.
-
- 02/21 2359hrs-
Deadline Hamletter.
-
- 03/07 1930hrs
Monthly Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, Wheaton IL.
-
- 03/15 & 03/22
09hrs-17hrs WCRA Training Class, Faith Evangelical Covenant Church, Wheaton IL

Continued on pg 2

February 2014 pg 1

Hamfest (Contiumed)

Chairman Kurt, KB9RTO, was loud in his praise for the many volunteers who showed up to answer the call of Worker Chairman KC9KHT, Mike Wilson.

Especially noticeable was his 8 - year old Girl Scout daughter, Riley. Joe LeFebvre, N9WRO, and John Cheney, N9MWF, were applauded for getting the CSU on site and operating during the Saturday snowfall.

The Kane Co Expo Center snowplows had the lot clean, but President Kevin Oleniczak, N9JPG, and son Colin, were out early Sunday in the cold directing parking lot traffic. Colin took time off in the late morning to take his Technician test and he passed it! Kevin was protected from the weather by a custom "Communications Vest" given to him for Father's Day by his kids.



Mike Wilson (KC9KHT) poses with his daughter Riley.

Chairman Kurt summed up his feelings with "Sometimes I felt like I was at a track meet, but at the end of day, I felt like we'd fooled 'em again! A big thanks to everybody." Kurt, KB9RTO, said.

Sales of donated equipment and member anchors went well at a table run by Jim Ward, W9DHX, and Earle Kuhn, K9EFK. Next door, Dale Kwarta, NJ9E, pitched his "Ammo Box" kit to everyone on the way to the ticket barrel.



Dale NJ9E pitches his Radio-Go kits to a fellow Ham.



Warren Pugh KC9IL - FreeDV Digital Voice - HF lecturer talks about his area to Hamfest Forum attendees.



Credit was forthcoming from Forum Chairman, Peter Richey, N9HDW, to the four seminar speakers: John Sweeney, K9EL, on “Vacation DXpeditioning”; Al Sawyer, K9ILF, “Alternative Power for your Amateur Station – Field Day and Power Outages”; Warren Pugh, KC9IL, “Free DV(Digital Voice) HF”; and Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, “Digital Voice VHF/UHF – C4FM System Fusion”



**(Top Left) John Sweeney K9EL - Vacation DXing
(Middle Left) Al Sawyer K9ILF - Alternative Power for Your Amateur Station - Field Day and Power Outages and (Right) Mark Thompson WB9QZB - Digital Voice VHF/UHF - C4FM System Fusion speak to Hamfest attendees.**



Exam Team Coordinator Harry Kamer, K9HK, and his Volunteer Examiner colleagues, were kept busy with applicants. Eight Upgrade applicants were successful and 10 candidates passed the Technician test. Ticket Chairman Rich Bauer, N9DKO, held forth in the lobby with help from Carol Schroeder, KB9FYL, and Ken Kwasniewski, N9HQ . Other users of the lobby were visiting clubs and groups with their display tables and literature, as well as a well-stocked caterer with sandwiches, snacks and beverages.



The ringmaster of the Hamfest "circus" was George Henry, KA3HSW, announcing the call signs and ticket numbers of the hourly door prize winners. Using the call signs this year improved the number of claimants of the vendor-donated prizes. As the clock turned 1 p.m. vendors were packing up and the thinning crowds were awaiting the Grand Prize drawing. Out came the winning ticket! It was held by Marianne Stacey, KC9JLK, of Bolingbrook and a member of the DuPage Radio Club!



(Above) Riley Wilson helps George (KA3HSW) pull the winning tickets for Hamfest, (Right) Marianne Stacey(KC9JKL) of the DuPage Radio Club then approaches George and Riley to claim her prize. (Below) Chairman Kurt(KB9RTO) then poses with the winning Marianne as Al (K9ILF) looks on.



Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS

January 3, 2014, 1930 hrs

OPENING

Call to Order	N9HQ, NE9ET,KA9HEL,AJ9M,N9CBA,N9HDW,W9DHX,NV9R, K9ILF, W9BK,KB9RTO,KB9RCO,N9OA,N9JPG,KC9KHT,NJ9E,W9 UZ,K9EFK, KC9ZLS,KB9FYL,KA3HSW,W9NJM,WA9E,KA9RCC (Marty-Guest), KA9ETA (Jim-Guest)
Opening Remarks/Announcements	Called to order at 7:37pm.
Approval of Agenda	Approved
Introductions of Members/Guests	See Above

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

Corrections/Questions	None
Approval	Approved

OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9JPG)	Welcome all.
Vice President (N9HDW)	Program – Hamvention video regarding building a bowtie antenna. Kurt will have a presentation of the upcoming Hamfest.
Secretary (N9HQ)	Name badges are here. Pick them up at the front table.
Treasurer (KB9FYL)	Balances given. Budget report is available.
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	None

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (KA3HSW)	The 440 machine has been repaired and will be reinstalled when arrangements can be made with the site manager for access.
Questions & Answers	The COD station manager has been contacted regarding allowing us access to the tower. He seems amenable to getting us back up. The repeater shed now has our club logo on the door. The roof is also leaking.

MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Committee chairs are requested to keep reports brief and concise.
Please hold any and all questions for continuing business.*

HAMLETTER (KC9IJO)	Not present. A new mail mechanism is in place to contact and notify members of club events.
Website (N9WBW)	Not present. The club's training page has been updated to reflect the upcoming training sessions.
Public Relations (W9UZ)	Watch the local papers for the club's upcoming Hamfest.
Club Awards (N9MWF)	Not present.
Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)	No report.
CSU (N9MWF)	Not present. A CSU workday is planned for tomorrow 1/4/14 at Joe's house.
Interference (<i>open position</i>)	None
Training (<i>open</i>)	Mark Potter will be conducting a two weekend technician course in March. Fliers were passed out to members. Instructors are needed. Please see Mark if interested. The club's VE team will test after the second class.
VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)	The VE team will be testing at the Hamfest as well as the technician class. The VE team has not tested for about a year due to the library having scheduling issues.
[Meeting] Program (N9HDW)	Kid's Day will be on the air this Sunday, Jan 5. John Faber will hold an antenna design video. A stealth antenna program will be held at February's meeting.
Club Nets (<i>open position</i>)	None
Hamfest (KB9RTO)	None
Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)	8 kits will be available at the Hamfest.
Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)	No report.
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	It was great.
Membership (<i>open</i>)	None

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	None
By-laws Amendment Proposal	Marty Kennedy (attorney) has reviewed the proposal and suggested some changes.

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

NEW BUSINESS

	None

CLOSING

Anchors	None
Announcements	Dorothy Drake has sent a note to the club thanking us for all we have done for her. Orrin Atkinson is temporarily laid up due to a fall.
Guest Comments	None
Member Comments	None
Adjournment	Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

IN THE NEWS

REMINDER!!! MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!!

Option 1: keep it the same



Option 2: new rectangular design



Optionally, each member can choose whether they want the APRS logo added at no extra cost.

Just a friendly reminder: All members had to get their dues into treasurer Carol Schroeder(KB9FYL) by the January membership meeting. If you have not paid your dues yet you have until the April membership meeting to get your dues in. According to ARTICLE V FORFEITURE OF MEMBERSHIP of our by-laws members may be dropped from membership if annual dues are not paid by the April meeting of each year. Dues are \$26 and look for the Membership Renewal form later in this Hamletter.



The President's Corner

Members:

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Hamfest a success and thanks goes especially to Kurt(KB9RTO) for his leadership! We have many talented and dedicated members and it's exciting to be part of the WCRA.

Looking ahead, our club will hold a technician license training class in March. Advertising recently started, and there is interest starting to come in for the class. This is a time to help grow the amateur radio community in our area, and we need your help to offer this class. Instructors are needed in all areas so get with Mark Potter(W9UZ) and sign up today!

With our upcoming tech class, this is a great time to bring an unlicensed friend to our February meeting. I'm sure Peter(N9HDW) will have an entertaining and informative program that may inspire others to become a ham and join the WCRA.

Kevin - N9JPG

Program Meeting Notes

Our next monthly meeting will be Friday, February 7th, 2014 7:30 PM, at the First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, Illinois, at the northwest corner of the intersection of Jefferson and Ellis Avenues.

Program:

- 1) Ham Kids in Action: "Ham Radio Meets Harry Potter - Cloaking Fractal Antenna at Microwave Frequencies" (video)
- 2) "Using EZNEC Software to Model and Adjust Your Antenna Design"
Presented by John Faber WT9Y

Peter Richey N9HDW

QST REVIEW

By Jim Ward, W9DHX



QST COVER SUGGESTS ADVANCED PROJECTS FOR HOME BUILDER

Two veteran hams have presented their favorite project for you to build this winter. Lou Burke, W7JI, would like to have you put together a 10 meter beacon transmitter that can also double as a crystal controlled CW transmitter putting out either a one watt or three watt signal. His article can be found on pages 33 to 35. Following on pages 36 to 39, Forest Schick, WA2MZG, shows you how to build a user-configurable Morse Keyer. His interest in the device was inspired by wanting to be a “better operator.”

ATTRACTIVE “STEALTH” ANTENNA FOOLS THE NEIGHBORS IN LYNNWOOD, WA.

Retired Physics professor, Dave Cornell, W9LD, lives in a classy neighborhood in a beautifully gabled house. His subdivision is in a former gravel pit with no tall trees! His answer: a 20 foot aluminum flagpole that never had a flag on it. It does have a lot of accessories to help his coverage on 160 meters through ten, including 500 feet of radials. You’ll find the article on pages 30- 32.

MORE ON THE ARRL CENTENNIAL - THE LIFE OF HIRAM PERCY MAXIM

“The Old Man”, as he was affectionately known, was one of the most unusual inventors of the 20th Century. Chris Codella, W2PA, presents some of the fascinating details of this giant of a man who put the ARRL together with his organization talent and personal funds. His “day job” was as an automotive and aviation designer with 40 automotive patents. His dislike for noise led to the invention of a firearm silencer, for which he became famous. Read all about this unusual man on pages 72 through 75.

FATHER AND SON DXPEDITION TEAM VISITS ST. BARTS ISLAND

Many of the members of the Club are “second generation” hams and picked up the hobby at an early age. They and others will be interested in reading about Eric Martin, N5WR, and his father, Jeff, as they operated “on the other side of the pile up” last summer. During the adventure they took some time away from the radio gear and enjoyed the popular tourist destination that has a definite French influence. St. Barts has many fine beaches which Eric and Jeff used for relaxation between pile ups. The hummingbirds and a daily visit by a family of turtles outside their operating position offered a bit of entertainment during their 12,766 QSOs. Look for the story on pages 76-77.

Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,

I'm a bank loan officer. Last week, the new owner of a local amateur radio equipment store came to see me accompanied by a huge pit bull. Unfortunately, I had to decline making the loan.

The pit bull promptly bit me---and then pounced on a near-by customer and bit him, too.

I can understand why the dog bit me, but why did he bite the innocent customer?

Signed, Loan Officer

Dear Loan Officer,

To get the rotten taste out of his mouth.

Having trouble with your ham radio hobby? Tell Ann all about it:
ann.ode@w9ccu.org



Check us out on
FACEBOOK

Fox Hunt Report

1st Sat Hunt - KMart Parking lot, Elmhurst, Rt 93 north of St Charles Rd - CFAR input 147.750MHz

2nd Sat Hunt - Downers Grove Golf Club parking lot, off Belmont Rd south of Odgen Av - Simplex 146.565 MHz

3rd Sat Hunt - Centennial Park, Addison, Rohlwing Rd, 0.4 miles south of Lake St - CFMC input 146.160 MHz

4th Sat Hunt - WoodDale Rd between Thorndale and Irving Pk Rd - Simplex 146.34 MHz

5th Sat Hunt - Contact Mike at phone number below as hunt info and rules may be different from above hunts.

For further info contact Mike WA9FTS or call at 708-457-0966

Help Wanted-Radio Class Trainers

We are setting the date and location for our next tech class and now need to gather experienced hams to help teach various sections. The class will be two days (two consecutive Saturdays) on March 15th and 22nd (9AM to 5PM). Participants will be required to attend both sessions and pre-class reading assignments will be required. We will be using Gordon West class materials. Review pages 16 to 22 for detailed descriptions of these subject areas to know what needs to be covered as described in this pdf: <http://www.haminstructor.com/downloads/TechGuide.pdf> More details to follow. If you're interested in helping out, instructors will be needed for these topics:

Introduction to Ham Radio
About Ham Radio
Call Signs
Control
Mind the Rules
Tech Frequencies
Your First Radio
Going On the Air!
Repeaters
Emergency
Weak Signal Propagation
Talk to Outer Space!
Your Computer Goes Ham Digital!
Multi-Mode Radio Excitement
Run Some Interference Protection
Electrons
It's the Law Per Mr. Ohm!
Picture This!
Antennas
Feed Me with Some Good Coax!
Safety First!

Get with Mark Potter to sign up! Email him at w9uz@arrl.net

Kevin Oleniczak-N9JPG

Home study first! In two Saturdays, you will be a ham radio operator!

Amateur Radio Class & Exam

Get your entry level ham license in two days
with the help of the
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Saturday March 15th and March 22, 2014

- Study at home in advance using proven and easy study materials and then join us for class for demonstrations and answers to all your questions.
- Pass your ham radio FCC license exam right in class, on the second day!
- Radio demonstrations of internet linking, digital modes with computers and smartphone apps.
- Training on how to operate through local radio repeater systems.
- Live equipment demonstrations, including radio direction finding.
- Multiple-choice examinations with no Morse Code test required.
- Get acquainted with experienced hams from our area.

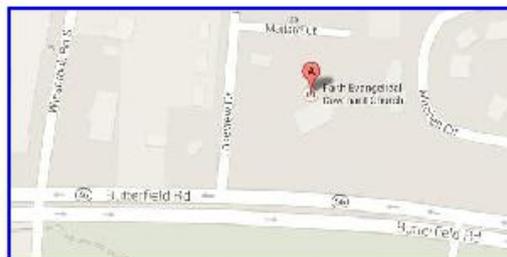


Book for Class

-
- Who: You! Adults and youth are invited
- When: Saturday March 15th and March 22, 2014
(both dates required for attendance)
9AM to 5PM (bring a sack lunch)
- Where: Faith Evangelical Covenant Church
2001 Lakeview Drive, Wheaton, IL 60189
- Cost: \$10 for the class (required) + \$15 for the test (optional)
\$20 to purchase the book from the WCRA
Make check payable to the WCRA.
- Register: Pre-registration is required by contacting
training@w9ccu.org or phone 630-604-0157



<http://www.w9ccu.org/classes.htm>





APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

P. O. Box QSL ● Wheaton, IL 60187-5139 ● Phone/Fax (630) 604-0157
wcra@w9ccu.org ● www.w9ccu.org

DUES

- Full Member \$26
- Student/Sr. Citizen \$13
- Associate (No License) \$13
- Family member of _____ \$39/household
(Call)

Club Badge \$7 Name on badge _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Year _____
 Cash \$ _____
 Ck # _____ \$ _____

Name _____ ARS Callsign _____

Address _____ APT _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone : Home _____ Mobile _____ Work _____

E-mail _____ ARRL Member? Yes No

Signature / Date _____

Sponsor's signature / Call (new members only) _____

*ONLY MEMBERS APPEARING ON THE
OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP LIST AT THE
TIME OF APPLICATION ARE ELIGIBLE
FOR RENEWAL.*

Please indicate events where you would like to assist or serve on the committee

- Hamfest (January) Special Olympics (April) MS Walk (May)
- Field Day (June) 4th of July Parade Christmas Party

Please indicate additional areas where you would like to assist the club

- Website Newsletter Elmering VE Testing Member Retention

Other _____

For Sale



Hour Glass Videography

Peter Richey N9HDW Wheaton, IL
hgvl@comcast.net Phone: 630-690-2846

*Producing Video Memoirs, Personal Documentaries,
Narrated Photo Albums and Custom Videos*

Member of **WCRA** Since **1987**

**Contact Peter to record a video tour of your ham shack:
good for insurance inventory, personal web site, and
Amateur Television demo. Personal and affordable.**

IN THE COMMUNITY!!!

MORE PHOTOS FROM OUR ANNUAL HAMFEST



Chairman Kurt KB9RTO with RadioWave exhibitor, wife and K-9 staff

A Hamfest attendee looks on to see how Ham Radio helps out with the annual Chicago Marathon



A test taker turns in his test to the examiners AE9JG Jaine and W9GWR George



CQ Hamletter Contributors

Jim, Jim Jim where would I be without you! Jim Ward (W9DHX) went well above and beyond for the February Hamletter this month. In addition to his usual QST review article he also covered Hamfest for me in a big way (both as reporter and photographer). I wish I could have been there; it looked like so much fun. I don't know what I would have done if you weren't there to help me this month. Thank you, thank you so much.

Of course if you want to get something in to the Hamletter you can always email me at m2e1990@gmail.com The deadline for the March issue will be February 21st 2014.

Looking forward to hearing from you next month

Mary Tuohy

KC9IJO Hamletter Editor.

WCRA meets on the First Friday of every month most months at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton Illinois at 7:30 p.m. The church is located at the intersection of Jefferson and Ellis in Wheaton. The club 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 always followed by a break where light refreshments are served. The break is followed by a program about an amateur radio related subject. We would like to see you there to share the enthusiasm. If you would like more information about the club or would like to join check our website at www.w9ccu.org to get an application. You can also check us out on our Facebook page.

CLUB OFFICERS-

President-Kevin Oleniczak (N9JPG)
Vice President-Peter Richey (N9HDW)
Secretary- Ken Kwasniewski (N9HQ)
Treasurer-Carol Schroeder (KB9FYL)
Property Custodian-Dale Kwartka (NJ9E)

HAMLETTER

Editor-

Mary Tuohy KC9IJO Email-
m2e1990@gmail.com

Contributor-Jim Ward (W9DHX)

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.