

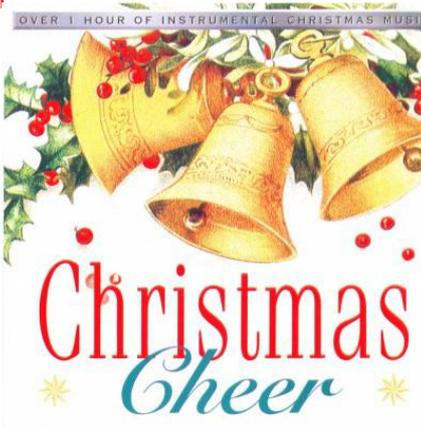


# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly  
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
Issue 615 December 2014



## Good Propagations- Club's Annual Holiday Party



The annual holiday party will be held on **Sunday, December 7th at 4pm.** The location for this year's party is **Barone's in Glen Ellyn.** Barone's is located at **475**

**Pennsylvania Ave.** in downtown Glen Ellyn. The cost will be **\$20 per person for adults and \$10 per child under 12.** Dinner will be pizza, salad and chicken parmesan served family style.

Reservations are needed by **November 29th.** Email Ruth ([rkwarta@aol.com](mailto:rkwarta@aol.com)) to attend.

### Inside...

PG 1-Good Propagations  
PG 2-President's Corner  
PG 3 Minutes  
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PG 11 Help Wanted/For Sale

### Event Calendar

11/29/14-Deadline to RSVP to Club Holiday Party.

12/7/14 4 P.M.- Club Holiday Party at Barone's in Glen Ellyn

12/19/14 Deadline Hamletter

01/09/15 7:30 p.m. Monthly Meeting 1st Presbyterian Church Wheaton IL.

01/17&18/15 HAMFEST!!!! Kane County Fairgrounds, St. Charles IL.



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Members,

The annual holiday party is fast approaching. I hope you find the time to join us for a relaxed gathering with time to connect and share our passion for amateur radio and other interests with one another.

As a reminder we also have a new membership form that serves both new and renewing members alike. It contains updated badge ordering details as well as the online privacy options for you to select. The form can be filled out electronically if you like, but we would appreciate it if you would also print it out and mail it along with your dues payment for 2015. Look for the form on the club's web site homepage of [www.w9ccu.org](http://www.w9ccu.org).

As the year closes out I want to thank those who offer much of their time leading the various programs and committees for the club. We have a very diverse set of interests and it takes many people to make it all happen. We've had an excellent Hamfest, monthly meeting programs, nets and the Hamletter. Our repeaters have been well maintained and we've even acquired a new Fusion repeater to use. Our CSU is well equipped and always ready for action. We've been in the public with our Field Day, public service events and training classes (3 of them this year). I especially appreciate the board members for all of their dedication and support for all the various needs of the club which we've deliberated.

Thank you all!

Seasons Greetings,

**Kevin - N9JPG**

# Meeting Minutes

## WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS November 7, 2014, 1930 hrs

### OPENING

Call to Order	0730
Opening Remarks/Announcements	The auction will be held tonight.
Approval of Agenda	Approved
Introductions of Members/Guests	N9HQ,W9UZ,N9HDW,KB9RTO,N9HDW,KC9YFI,N9LTW,KD9AAH,N9JPG,KB9UGJ,N9VDQ,KD9CHL,KC9KHT,KB9FYL,KA0DSF,WA9FTS,KB9RCO,NJ9E,N9DKO,W9BK,K9ILF,WA9ACO,KD9AUR,WA9SGF,N9OA,WB9FUB,AC9CM

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

Corrections/Questions	None
Approval	Approved

### OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9JPG)	2015 Dues are due by the end of this year. A new application and renewal form has been created which is available on the club web site.
Vice President (N9HDW)	The auction will be held tonight.
Secretary (N9HQ)	No Report
Treasurer (KB9FYL)	Balances were given.
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	Commercial HT's and repeater were donated to the club. Modifications are being made to the ham band..

### REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (KA3HSW)	The new Fusion repeater is on the air (.39) with limited range. The repeater will be moved to its new location on .31 in the near future.
Questions & Answers	None

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

HAMLETTER (KC9LJO)	None
Website (N9WBW)	None
Public Relations (N9JPG)	None
Club Awards (N9MWF)	None
Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)	Steve thanked those that assisted with the 2014 Chicago Marathon.
CSU (N9MWF)	The CSU worked well for the marathon. Minor upgrades are in progress...grounding buss.
Interference ( <i>open position</i> )	None

## MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

Training (W9UZ)	This weekend is the final weekend of the General Class. 8 are attending.
VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)	None
[Meeting] Program (N9HDW)	Our annual auction is tonight. The program committee is looking for assistance. See Peter.
Club Nets (KC9YFI)	Tim is still looking for a control operator for the first Sunday of the month. See Tim.
Hamfest (KB9RTO)	Rich Bauer is handling tickets. We need to sell more tickets because this is the club's only fundraiser. A signup sheet was passed around for workers.
Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)	Dale has most of the parts for future kits. Bill and he are working on the kits.
Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHI)	None
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	The annual party will be at 4pm on December 7, at Barone's in downtown Glen Ellyn. Reservations will be needed by November 29. \$20/person
Membership (open)	A new renewal form is on the club's website. 2015 dues are due by the end of the year. Two new members were voted in.

### CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	None

### NEW BUSINESS

Don Drake award	The 2014 recipient is Steve Peterson/N9OA.
	B & B Embroidery (Hamthreads.com) is offering a massive discount for club jackets, hats and shirts. See Kurt for further details.

### CLOSING

Anchors	None
Announcements	None
Guest Comments	None
Member Comments	None
Adjournment	8:07 pm

# THE ANNUAL CLUB AUCTION!

## Auction “Double Header” Sparks Action at November Meeting

By Jim Ward W9DHX

Both a live and a silent auction drew a good crowd to the November WCRA meeting with some unusual electronic and related items changing hands.

Presiding at the “live” auction were Colin (KD9AHH), and assistant auctioneer, Peter (N9HDW). Instead of the usual auction block Peter took his video camera to the auction tables and “broadcast” the sale items on a big screen. A large variety of items filled the tables at both sides and rear of the meeting room with antennas, instrumentation, down to lowly tuning knobs.

The “silent” auction filled two tables with gear from the estate of Carl Schow (N9GZR-SK). His family donated the proceeds to the club. A tri-band handheld and a 25 watt mobile 2- meter rig were the top sellers. The mobile buyer, Bill (KD9AUP), had it on the air the following day!

The business meeting featured lively discussions which are reported in the minutes. Most interesting is that progress is being made to relocate the 2 meter repeater to a non-residential site.



**Several Club Members Examine the items that will be auctioned off.**

**Colin (KD9AHH) and Peter (N9HDW) start to sell things while Mark (W9UZ) observes in the background**



## PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

1. No meeting in December 2014 due to Holiday Party (Dec 7, 2014)
2. January meeting is one week later than usual - January 9, 2015  
and its program will be the WCRA Hamfest Final Preparations

Thanks,

**Peter Richey**  
**N9HDW**

## IN THE NEWS

### **Steve Peterson, N9OA, Is Winner Of Don Drake Scholarship Award**



Auction night at the November WCRA meeting was the occasion of the presentation of the Sixth Don Drake Memorial Scholarship Award. The winner of the Award for outstanding Public Service was Steve Peterson, N9OA, whose Public Service at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon demonstrated his dedication to Amateur Radio. The presentation was made by Jim Ward, W9DHX, on behalf of the Don Drake family.

Jim Ward W9DHX presents the Don Drake Scholarship Award to Steve Peterson N9OA.

The original plaque is on display in the home of the winner for a year, and a duplicate is mounted on a wall of the CSU as a permanent display. Past recipients include: John Faber(WT9Y); John Cheney(W9MWF); Larry Schroeder(KA9KBC); Joe LeFebvre(N9WRO); and Dale Kwart(NJ9E). In addition to the plaque there is a cash award of \$300.

## **REMINDER!!! MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!!**

The club's membership dues are due by **December 31st, 2014**. Please visit <http://www.w9ccu.org/application.pdf> to fill out the form online. Dues are \$26 for a regular member, \$13 for students/seniors/non licensed associates and \$39 for a family membership. If you need a name badge please check all appropriate boxes and include the costs in your check/method of payment. The biggest change to the 2015 Membership Dues Form is the section indicating your privacy preferences. For more information or if you have any questions please email Carol (KB9FYL) at [Carol.Schroeder@att.net](mailto:Carol.Schroeder@att.net) or Ken (N9HQ) at [n9hq@arrl.net](mailto:n9hq@arrl.net)

## **Hamfest 2015**

It's just over a month till Hamfest 2015 (1/18/15)! What does this mean? The 48th annual WCRA Hamfest is going to be very soon. So, please get your tickets even if you can't make it. The tickets also include a chance to win the grand prize of \$200. See Rich (N9DKO) to get your tickets or get them at the club meeting in January. Also we need workers. If you are available to help set up/tear down/work day of please email Mike (KC9KHT) at [KC9KHT@gmail.com](mailto:KC9KHT@gmail.com) to get your slot. Spaces fill quickly! More hands make light work.

This is our major Fundraiser and we can use your help. Also, this is my last year doing the event, and Bob (W9BK) will be the Chairman for the 49th show. Thank you, Bob! I'll be stepping down, but I still will be helping where I can(prizes for sure). So, if you can get some donations for prizes or sponsor an hourly drawing email me at [info@w9ccu.org](mailto:info@w9ccu.org) Remember: Hamfest =Fun+YOU=fundraiser.

**2015 Hamfest Chairman  
Kurt KB9RTO**

Anyone interested in helping for the Hamfest should email me at at [KC9KHT@gmail.com](mailto:KC9KHT@gmail.com)

Mike Wilson  
KC9KHT

## A BUSY YEAR FOR THE TRAINING COMMITTEE

By Jim Ward W9DHX

Mark Potter, W9UZ, Chairman of the WCRA Training Committee, gave credit to the Volunteer Instructors that made it possible to report a busy curriculum this year with two license classes conducted for Technician and General candidates.

“We can only conduct classes when we have instructors,” Mark commented. “Their willingness to pass on knowledge about Ham Radio makes these classes possible. With that kind of cooperation, we’ll have more classes in 2015.”



“I am also glad to see other ham organizations sponsoring similar programs at other locations, which means that Harry Kamer and his staff of examiners will have a crowd of candidates for their original licenses and upgrades during the 2015 Hamfest Examining Session in January,” Potter added.

Successful candidates for the General Class license on November 8th were: Tim Wheeler, KC9YFI; Arne Quanbeck, KD9CHK; Erik Farrow, KD9CHO; and Sebastian Duve, KD9CHP.



## **QST REVIEW** **By Jim Ward, W9DHX**

### **WHAT A COVER! HAM PHOTOGRAPHER TAKES BOTH PICTURES**

Jerry Clement, VE6AB, took both the “farm and mountain” shot and a self portrait on QST’s cover. The snow scene is south of his Calgary home showing the Canadian Rockies in the background, and the portrait shows him bathed in the glow of the single glass tube atop his antique receiver as he “pounds brass.”

### **SPECIAL VETERAN, SPECIAL RADIO, AND A SPECIAL “CODE TALKER” EVENT**

Remember hearing about the Navajo Code Talkers of WW II who aided the U. S. Marines with quick verbal communications in combat that the Japanese couldn’t break? The Navajo language was so complicated it stumped deciphering—but gave the Marines a fast way to give commands as they moved across the Pacific. The last living member of that elite group was honored with an article on pages 59 -60. In 2001, Chester Nez was one of five talkers who were given the Congressional Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush. Earlier this year he was also honored by the Marines.

### **HOME BREW MIKE STAND DESIGNED BY WYOMING HAM**

Leonard Gordon, KD7CLO, has put together a design for a mike stand that can handle the hand held mike that may have come with your mobile rig. Photos of the finished product and suggested parts that can be found in your junk box or workshop are included in the article that begins on page 97 of this month’s Hints & Kinks column.

### **A LOOK AT THE PAST AND INTO THE FUTURE BY THE ARRL CEO**

David Summer, K1ZZ, in his Personal Visions column on page 96, looks back at the original “Spark Gap” days of ham radio and into the future. He speaks of the opportunities and threats to our hobby, and the creative tension as we move from old to new techniques. As a member of one of the few hobbies that require a license, it is well worth your reading

## Dear Ann Ode...



**Dear Ann Ode,**

My boyfriend just got his ham radio license. I want to surprise him with a high quality transceiver. I'm not a ham, so I don't know which transceiver to buy.

If you were going to buy a transceiver for your boyfriend, which one would you choose?

Signed, Undecided

Dear Undecided,

I'd choose the bullet-proof one. I'm married.

Tell your ham radio troubles to Ann at [ann.ode@w9ccu.org](mailto: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

The Program Committee needs an additional volunteer to help at club meetings to greet people, arrange refreshments and perform setup/teardown. On the job training provided! Lots of satisfaction in making the meetings more welcoming for people.

If you have a knack for hospitality, this is a great way to meet people in the club as well as visitors. Only requires coming a little early to meetings (30 minutes) and staying a few minutes after the meeting to cleanup. Contact Peter N9HDW to volunteer ([n9hdw@arrl.net](mailto:n9hdw@arrl.net)).



**Hour Glass Videography**

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

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**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.**

## For Sale

Rohn tower sections as follows:

4 – 25G 10' straight tower sections

1 – 25G Top section with static bearing – about 9' long

1 – hinge section with arm (hardware not included – new hardware required)

Sections may need to be painted.

\$200 or best offer.

Doug W9NJM 630-469-3001



## UP UP AND AWAY, CLUB MEMBER DARRYL HEDGES (KD9AUK) HELPS NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY COMPLETE SUCCESSFUL BALLOON LAUNCH!!

By Darryl Hedges (KD9AUK)

I'm proud to announce that the High Altitude Balloon Group from Northwestern University that I have been coaching this Fall successfully launched and recovered their first HAB mission on Saturday, November 22nd, 2014.

We launched the balloon from Koerner Aviation in Kankakee, Illinois at 10:25 am (in some light rain). The launch went without a hitch and the balloon (a Kaymont 1500 gram high altitude weather balloon carrying a single payload package containing three GoPro cameras, a miniature flight computer, an APRS tracker, and a SPOT Generation 3 GPS tracker) climbed steadily until it burst at 98,800 feet.

From launch to recovery the balloon and payload package traveled about 111 miles in a relatively straight line from Kankakee Airport to just east of Warsaw, Indiana, where it narrowly missed landing in a large lake, and came to rest just several hundred yards beyond the lake. Our Recovery Team found the balloon and payload intact shortly after it landed.

If you would like to see the track that the balloon followed, go to the "[APRS.fi](http://APRS.fi)" web site and use the call sign KD9AUK-4. Set the "Show Last" time on the right side of the screen to show any flights during the last 7 days. Set the "Track Tail Length" for the same period.

The final landing spot was just east of Big Chapman Lake near Warsaw, Indiana. Use the "+" and "-" buttons located in the upper left-hand corner of the screen to zoom-in on the landing location. Also, click on the "Map" tab at the top of the screen and scroll down to "Satellite" to set the screen to show the "satellite" view on the map. You'll be able to see some amazing detail of the area. If you click on any of the tiny red dots that appear along the balloon track, an information box will appear showing the telemetry information that we were receiving as we tracked the balloon while sitting in a McDonalds in Matteson, Illinois.

Our two-man "Recovery Team" had already driven to the predicted landing area in Indiana earlier in the day. Most, but not all, McDonalds restaurants have a WiFi connection to the Internet.

The trail that appears headed back west from the final landing point was generated when the Recovery Team picked-up the balloon and started back to NU but forgot to turn off the Byonics Micro-Trak AIO APRS tracking device.

The Byonics APRS tracker performed flawlessly.



## UP UP AND AWAY (Continued)

The trail that appears headed back west from the final landing point was generated when the Recovery Team picked-up the balloon and started back to NU but forgot to turn off the Byonics Micro-Trak AIO APRS tracking device. The Byonics APRS tracker performed flawlessly.

The initial review of the payload indicates that the three (3) GoPro cameras we were using to record the mission performed flawlessly and recorded the entire mission from launch to landing. One camera was pointed up to catch the balloon burst, one was pointed down at about a 45 degree angle to the ground, and one pointed straight out at the horizon. Initial indications are that the videos were "awesome".

While passing through the Jetstream, the balloon and payload were traveling well over 100 miles per hour. I'll pass along more information when the flight computer data is fully reviewed. I'll also pass along any images once I receive a copy.

Now that the cornfields in northern Indiana have been harvested, and those 8-foot tall corn stalks are no longer a barrier, I will be launching my own high altitude balloon missions in early December and through until late June. If you would like to help out, I can always use an extra pair of hands or energetic people to help with the launch or chase to recover the balloon.

Go Northwestern!

Darryl Hedges  
Bartlett, Illinois 60103

(630) 877-6500  
[darrylray@mac.com](mailto:darrylray@mac.com)  
KD9AUK

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# WCRA 48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MID-WINTER HAMFEST

## ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET COMPUTERS AND PC PARTS & OTHER GADGETS AMATEUR RADIO EXPOSITION

FEATURING

- Free Parking
- Heated Indoor Facility
- Paved Parking Lot
- Food
- Amateur Radio Exams
- Educational Forums



An ARRL Hamfest

### Tickets:

**Advance, 4 raffle stubs \$8**

**At the door, 1 raffle stub \$10**

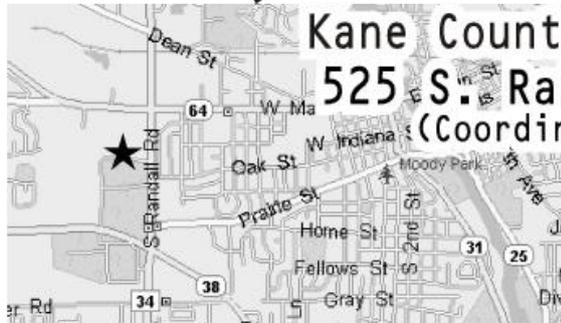
Children under 12 admitted at no charge

### Exhibit Floor Rental:

**\$25/table (\$30 after 1/7, if available)**

**Electricity available for \$10**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2015 Doors Open 8AM**



Kane County Fairgrounds Expo Center  
525 S. Randall Rd., St Charles, IL  
(Coordinates: N 41.9056, W 88.34232)

[www.wheatonhamfest.org](http://www.wheatonhamfest.org)

(630) 604-0157

INFO@W9CCU.ORG



### **Advance Ticket and Flea Market Table Order Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @\$8.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Tables @\$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Electricity (\$10.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please include an e-mail address so that we can confirm your order along with an SASE for delivery of tickets..

Mail to: WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60187-1055

## CQ Hamletter Contributors

Well, here we are at the end of 2014. I hope everyone will look back with fond memories of things like our Field Day and our upcoming Holiday Party, and I hope everyone comes out to Hamfest in January of 2015. I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the Hamletter this year especially Jim (W9DHX) who is my #1 star reporter and photographer. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, or best wishes for whatever holiday you celebrate.

*Sincerely,  
Mary Tuohy KC9IJO Hamletter editor*

P.S. If you wish an article in the January Hamletter you need to get it in to me by December 19th. Email them in to me at [m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com)

WCRA meets on the First Friday of 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. 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 a membership application visit our website at [www.w9ccu.org](http://www.w9ccu.org). You can also visit 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 Kwarta (NJ9E)**

#### HAMLETTER

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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.