



# HAMLETTER

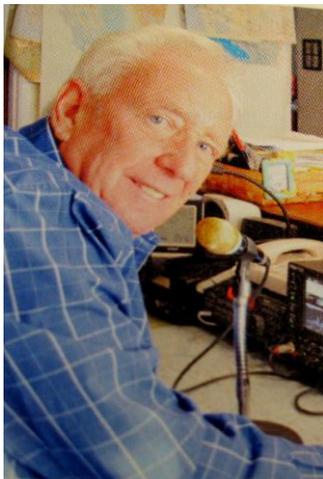
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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
Issue 619 April 2015



## Good Propagations

### The Gordon West Make Surprise Visit to Technician Class of March 2015

By Jim Ward W9DHX



**Gordon West, W6NOA, from his ham shack pays WCRA's tech class**

Well-known Ham Educator Gordon West, W6NOA, made a "Skype" appearance at Session Two of the License Class conducted on Sat., March 21st by Training Director Mark Potter, W9UZ. Gordon welcomed the class members to the group of 3.5 million hams around the globe and encouraged them to "enjoy the hobby."

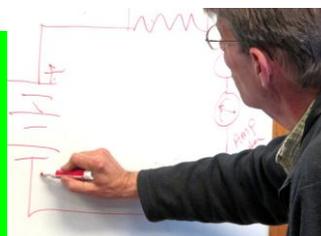
The class used the textbook and learning materials that have been so successful in helping students pass the license testing. As expected, all eleven candidates successfully passed the test.

The Volunteer Examiners who administered the test were: Harry Kamer, K9HK; Don Webster, K9MUF; George Greene, NE9ET; and Jamie Gallina, AE9JG. The instructors who presented the class materials were:

Peter Richey, N9HDW; Dale Kwarta, NJ9E, Rick Costello, N9HLG; Kevin Oleniczak N9JPG; Al Sawyer, K9ILF, Tom Geletka, N9CBA; Mark Potter, W9UZ; and Jim Ward, W9DHX.

The eleven new Technician Class licensees are: Nadine Miles, Michelle Wheeler, Mark Decker, Bob Nokes, Mike Lorkiewicz, Dave Dahlstrom, Bill Robinson, Tom Shirey, Carol Crockett, David Palfery, and Melissa Palfery.

**Dale Kwarta, NJ9E shows circuit diagram to the class**



### Inside...

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- Pg 3-Minutes
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- Pg 10-QST Review
- PG 11-Dear Ann Ode
- Pg 12-Help Wanted

### Event Calendar

04/10/2015 7:30 p.m.  
Monthly meeting/Election Meeting. 1st Presybyterian Church Wheaton IL.

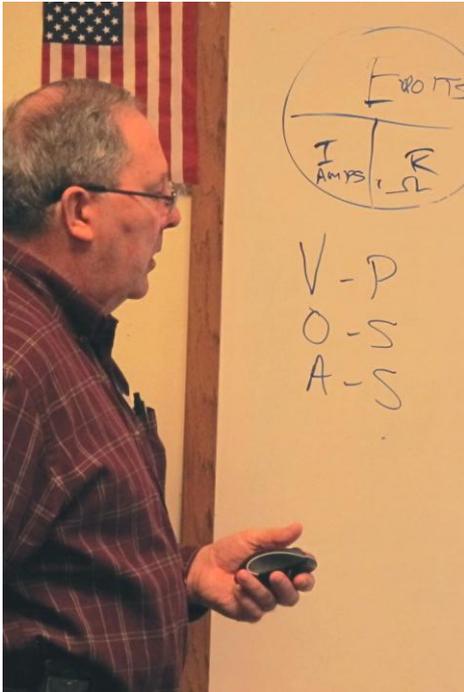
04/17/2015-  
DEADLINE- Hamletter

04/18/2015-World Amateur Radio Day

05/01/2015 7:30 p.m.  
Monthly Meeting. 1st Presybyterian Church Wheaton IL.

06/05/2015 7:30 p.m.  
Monthly Meeting 1s Presybyterian Church, Wheaton IL

06/27&28- Field Day



**Rick Costello, N9HLG, demonstrates the principles of OHM's law to the class**



**The 2015 Spring Tech Class and their fellow WCRA instructors.**

# Meeting Minutes

## WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS

March 6, 2015, 1930 hrs

### OPENING

Call to Order	7:33PM
Opening Remarks/Announcements	Welcome. Many new faces tonight. There are problems with the agenda being projected.
Approval of Agenda	Approved
Introductions of Members/Guests	N9HQ, W9UZ, N9OA, W9DHX, N9LTW, KB9UGJ, N9JPG, KD9CHK, AC9MM, N9CBA, WA9EMO, KA0DSF, K9ILF, KB9GJX, KD9AUP, KF5IV, N V9R, NJ9E, WA9E, KC9YFI, KD9AHH, KC9ZLS, KC9KHT, KD9BLP, KB9YFL, KC9CUQ, W9NJM, N9HDW, K9JWG, N9LEM, LARRY (KD9CHK), KD9AUK, W9FUB, KB4DOZ, N9HLG, WA9ACO, KD9AUQ, Numerous guests

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

Corrections/Questions	None
Approval	Approved

### OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9JPG)	None
Vice President (N9HDW)	Robotic rope climbing device will be tonight's presentation. A video from Hamfest will be April's presentation as well as officer elections. Dues are overdue.
Secretary (N9HQ)	Name tags are on the table.
Treasurer (KB9FYL)	Bank totals were given. Our budget looks good for the remaining fiscal year.
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	The property insurance has been edited to allow lesser items to not be covered. New equipment has been donated to the club. The donated commercial repeater has been mounted in the CSU.

### REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (WA9E)	Some members are experiencing problems with the 2 meter machine. It will be looked at. The 220 machine is being utilized more. The 440 machine is having intermittent problems. The .39 digital machine may be moved to Mark's tower later this month. The new Yaesu machines have not been ordered yet. Yaesu said that we can order multiple units. See new business.
Questions & Answers	None

## 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.*

<b>HAMLETTER (KC9LJO)</b>	Looking for help with editing. See Kevin or Mary.
<b>Website (N9WBW)</b>	None
<b>Public Relations (N9JPG)</b>	None
<b>Club Awards (N9MWF)</b>	None
<b>Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)</b>	The Special Olympics will be the last weekend of April. A memorandum of understanding is being requested to be signed by an unknown agency (Peterson). This will allow use of the CSU in state/federal emergencies.
<b>CSU (N9MWF)</b>	None
<b>Interference (open position)</b>	None
<b>Training (W9UZ)</b>	The next two Saturdays (14 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> ) are the Tech Classes. 13 individuals have expressed interest in the class. Teaching assistance is being requested. See Mark Potter.
<b>VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)</b>	None
<b>[Meeting] Program (N9HDW)</b>	See above. May's meeting may have a tower safety video. June will feature Hamfest prep.
<b>Club Nets (KC9YFI)</b>	Need more operators and members checking in.
<b>Hamfest (W9BK)</b>	The Kane County Fairgrounds will be used in 2016.
<b>Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)</b>	None
<b>Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHI)</b>	Seriously down on station captains. See Joe. June 27/28, 2015.
<b>Holiday Party (KA9RZG)</b>	Will be in December.
<b>Membership (open)</b>	KD9CHO (Eric), KD9CHM (Tony), and N9HLG (Rick) were voted in as new members.

## Meeting Minutes (Continued)

### CONTINUING BUSINESS

<b>Questions for Committee Chairs</b>	None0

### NEW BUSINESS

<b>RAB Equipment Purchase</b>	Roberto motioned that the RAB recommends that we purchase 3 new Yaesu 1X repeaters for an additional amount of \$700. Motioned carried. Dale suggested that we sell the older, replaced repeaters as they are replaced. The new machines will be deployed as soon as they are received. Motion was approved unanimously.
<b>Budget</b>	Carol gave a quick budget presentation. The budget will be voted on next month. Dale requested an amount not to exceed \$350 to repair the 746 Pro. Motion made and carried.

### CLOSING

<b>Anchors</b>	None
<b>Announcements</b>	The nominating committee is looking for nominees for new club officers. Roberto advised of several Severe Weather Spotter classes. Jamboral needs a leader for 10/3/2015 in Sandwich, IL
<b>Guest Comments</b>	None
<b>Member Comments</b>	None
<b>Adjournment</b>	8:33pm

# IN THE NEWS

*By: Mary Tuohy KC9IJO*



The future of Amateur Radio Robotics may have begun with WCRA. Two of our club's youngest Hams Colin Oleniczak (KD9AHH) and Alex Caswell (KD9AUQ) found a better way to get radio antenna's up to high places through robotics.

One day Colin and his friend Alex were bored and looking for something to do that was related to amateur radio. They decided to invent a climbing robotic platform that could be used to bring antenna cables up to high places. They assembled their robot by using the base of a remote control toy truck to provide the climbing mechanism and some Legos to build a platform on which the robot could carry radio antennas up a tall structure such as a tree. While the model they demonstrated to the club was a mere prototype it showed the potential for what could be accomplished with a little Plexiglas, hot glue, and some type of motor and wheel combination to create a system of pulleys.



The boys strung the string through a hole they created in the Plexiglas bottom. The wheels from the truck acted as the levers automatically pulling the platform up the string until it got all the way to the top of the ceiling. The type they build could run on either AC or DC current (If you install a battery). The boys also mentioned a breaking mechanism that was installed to help control the climb plus a line that could release the locking mechanism that prevented the platform from sliding back down the rope again. Many who attended the club presentation were impressed by these young engineers.

# PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

## **April 10, 2015 (Note: one week later than usual)**

[Program follows annual meeting and officer elections.]

2015 WCRA Mid Winter Hamfest Forum Video: "BroadBand HamNet ", by Jim Kinter K5KTF. If you missed the forum, or just want to see it again, this is the full live recording including the presenter's slides, talk, and Q&A.

## **May 1, 2015**

2015 WCRA Mid Winter Hamfest Forum Video: "Practical Safety Considerations For Amateur Radio Towers", by Mark Allen W6PC. If you missed the forum, or just want to see it again, this is the full live recording including the presenter's slides, talk, and Q&A.

## **June 5, 2015**

"ARRL Field Day - WCRA Final Preparations" Led by the WCRA Field Day Committee

**Peter  
N9HDW**

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

The club's membership dues were due by **December 31st, 2014**. If the dues are not paid by the April membership meeting you will not be able to vote in the April Club Election. Please visit <http://www.w9ccu.org/application.pdf> to fill out the form online if you have not done so already. 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)

## An Important Notice from the ARRL

### **FCC "Paperless" Amateur Radio License Policy Goes into Effect on February 17**

ZCZC AG04  
QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 4 ARLB004  
>From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT January 29, 2015  
To all radio amateurs

Starting February 17, the FCC no longer will routinely issue paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS), although the FCC has continued to print and mail hard copy licenses. In mid-December the FCC adopted final procedures to provide access to official electronic authorizations, as it had proposed in WT Docket 14-161 as part of its "process reform" initiatives.

Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization ("Active" status only) via the ULS License Manager. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization - as well as an unofficial "reference copy" - from the ULS License Manager.

"We find this electronic process will improve efficiency by simplifying access to official authorizations in ULS, shortening the time period between grant of an application and access to the official authorization, and reducing regulatory costs," the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said. According to the WTB, the new procedures will save at least \$304,000 a year, including the cost of staff resources.

In comments filed November 5, the ARRL had strongly recommended that the FCC "give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses."

The FCC said that applicants or licensees who include a valid e-mail address under "Applicant Information" in the ULS will receive an official electronic authorization via e-mail. New license applicants

## **An Important Notice from the ARRL** **Continued**

who do not provide a FCC Registration Number at the examination point will receive a printed license as well as an FRN and a temporary password to access the Commission Registration System (CORES).

The ARRL and other Amateur Radio commenters also worried that unless a license document is printed on distinctive paper stock, its authenticity could be questioned in such situations as obtaining vanity call sign license plates. To address this, the FCC said the watermark "Official Copy" will be printed on each page of an official authorization that a licensee prints out from the ULS. The WTB recently stopped using distinctive paper stock to produce hard copy licenses and has been printing these on "standard, white recycled paper." The Bureau noted that the distinctive paper stock it had used was six times more expensive than the plain recycled paper it now uses.

The ULS License Manager now includes settings that allow licensees to notify the WTB that they prefer to receive official authorizations on paper. Once the final procedures go into effect designating electronic access as the default, licensees can change the ULS License Manager setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document. Licensees also may contact FCC Support via the web at, [http://esupport.fcc.gov/index.htm?job=contact\\_fcc\\_support](http://esupport.fcc.gov/index.htm?job=contact_fcc_support) , or via telephone or mail to request paper licenses.

The FCC rejected as "outside the scope of this proceeding" an ARRL argument that Section 97.23 of the Amateur Service rules be amended to replace "licensee mailing address" with other alternatives, including e-mail, for use in Commission correspondence. The rule, which requires that any licensee mailing address be in an area where the licensee has US Postal Service access, has precluded FCC issuance of location-specific call signs in such areas as Navassa Island (KP1) and some Pacific islands.

NNNN  
/EX



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

### **COVER STORY: 13-YEAR OLD TWINS WORK THE CENTENNIAL QSO PARTY**

This month's cover harks back to the nation-wide effort to broadcast W1AW portable from every state in the union. This cover photo was from Pennsylvania, and the two intent teenagers are Joe and Jim Johnson, KC3CSI and KC3CSH. You'll find our state's activity announced on page 74, when our club effort took place at Mark Potter's (W9UZ) QTH and later at the WB9Z antenna farm. You saw some of the W1AW/9 effort (in a video made by videographer and Vice-President, Peter Richey, N9HDW, at our meeting in February.

### **FINE PRINT ON THE "PAPERLESS" LICENSE POLICY WHICH IS NOW IN EFFECT**

February 17th was the effective date ending hard copy issuance as standard. You'll find the procedure for getting the FCC to provide paper license documentation to all licensees who "notify the Commission" of their preference in the page 77 article by Rick Lindquist, WW1ME.

### **"WALL WARTS" GET ATTENTION IN "HINTS AND KINKS" COLUMN**

Phil Kearns, KE3FL, did some research on his set up of plug-in power supplies, commonly known as "wall warts" and found he could get a 71% power saving by carefully rearranging his control methods. He has the photo and research to prove the saving and it is reported in the page 66 story.

### **FROM SHIP'S BRIDGE TO SPACE STATION –A UNIQUE CONTACT**

The page 20 article from UPFRONT reports a unique contact with just a handheld antenna from the bridge of Coast Guard Cutter HAMILTON to NA1ISS. Navy Commander Reid Wiseman was out in space, and the shipboard operator was Fred Smallwood, WA4JVL. The newly constructed vessel was returning from sea trials and entering the Port of Pascagoula, MS.

### **CONFUSED ABOUT CALL SIGNS? WJ1B STRAIGHTENS US OUT**

Of course you know your own call sign, but what about the variety of combinations you hear on the air from your fellow hams and see in print? How did they get that way. Harold Kramer, the ARRL Chief Operating Officer (WJ1B) explains it all in a page 13 article and credits the Volunteer Examining Staff at ARRL Headquarters for their fine work.

## Dear Ann Ode...



### Dear Ann Ode,

I had two errands to do yesterday. One was picking-up my new transceiver from the ham radio store and the other was delivering a loaded firearm to the gun range a block away. However, I was arrested at the radio store.

Do you know why?

*Signed, Unhappy Behind Bars*

### *Dear Unhappy,*

Yes. You should have delivered the loaded firearm first.

You can tell your ham radio troubles to Ms. Ode 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)).

## Help Wanted

### NEW HAMLETTER EDITOR

DUTIES-Edit all articles submitted to the Hamletter and lay them out in a newsletter format.

QUALIFICATIONS- A love of Amateur Radio and experience with the club. Any previous Newsletter or Journalism experience is a plus.

INTERESTED-See Kevin N9JPG for further details.

## WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY IS APRIL 18TH

(Article courtesy of the ARRL)

April 18th is World Amateur Radio Day. (WARD). On April 18th 1925 The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded and this date has been set aside for promotion of Amateur Radio throughout the world in order to fulfill the IARU's goal of increasing awareness of Amateur Radio worldwide. This year also marks the 150th anniversary of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) who has helped with the allocation of radio bandwidth and the creation of standards and rules so that international communication networks run smoothly and seamlessly. The IARU and ITU continue to be vital players at international telecommunication conferences including the World Radio Communication Conference later this year.

The theme for World Amateur Radio Day is "ITU & IARU: Celebrating 150 years of Advancing the Telecommunication Art." For a list of activities related to World Amateur Radio Day visit [www.iaru.org/world-amateur-radio-day](http://www.iaru.org/world-amateur-radio-day) or check out #WARD2015 on Twitter. The ARRL is encouraging active participation of local hams everywhere on that day