



# HAMLETTER

Published Quarterly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 622 Q1 2016



## Historic NIKE Park Chosen for Field Day Site

A former missile site from the Cold War, located on the highest ground in DuPage County, was selected by a vote of Field Day volunteers at the March meeting. Nike Park, owned by the Village of Addison and managed by their Park District, has been made available for Saturday and Sunday, June 25 & 26, to operate the ARRL sponsored Field Day event. The Park entrance is at 200 N. Rohlwing Road (Old Rt. 53).



“We have a location that fits our needs,” commented Mark Potter, W9UZ, Co-Chairman of the event. “Thanks are due to Mark Spoo, W9VOQ, who lives nearby the Park. Now it’s up to the rest of us to provide the people to make it a winner.”

A month long search of a total of four sites ended up with the Nike Park selection. The others will be held in reserve for future years. One of the deciding factors in the Nike selection was a “courtesy” rental rate from Addison obtained by Mark Spoo’s salesmanship.

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### Event Calendar



Sunday Night 2 Meter Net  
145.31 Mhz

Next WCRA Meetings  
April 1st  
May 6th  
June 4rd  
@ 7:30 pm

AES Superfest  
April 2nd

Special Olympics  
May 1st

Dyslexia Walk  
May 14th

Tour de Cure  
June 12th

ARRL Field Day  
June 25-26th

# Meeting Minutes

## WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS March 4, 2016, 1930 hours

### OPENING

Call to Order	7:32 pm
Opening Remarks/Announcements	Tonight's program will be regarding the NWS Amateur Radio station in Romeoville.
Approval of Agenda	Approved
Introductions of Members/Guests	N9HQ, N9VDQ, AJ9M, N9E, KC9YFI, N0MO, KB9RCO, KD9AUP, WA9FTS, KC9DJT, N9OA, N9HDW, W9D HX, KA0DSF, N9LTW, N9CBA, W9UZ, KD9AUK, AC9CN, K9OM, KB9YFL, KC9CUQ, KD9EJD, K9ILF, WA9AC0, WB9VGO, WA9E., WX9VOR (Guest), N9NJM, K9OAM, KD9AHH, KD9BLT, N9JPG, Jeff (Guest), KA3HSW

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

Corrections/Questions	None
Approval	Approved

### OFFICER REPORTS

President (N0MO)	Lot's of website changes. Elections coming up. Mike will not be continuing as president.
Vice President (KC9YFI)	The program will be presented by Debbie/WX9VOR
Secretary (N9HQ)	None
Treasurer (KB9FYL)	Balances were given.
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	No report.

### REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (WA9E)	Bill has the Icom 440 repeater working and will replace the Fusion repeater while it is being reprogrammed.
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 (N9JPG)	The due date is at the end of March for the next Hamletter. See Kevin for updates or anything else you want to share.
Website (KD9EJD)	Marty is doing work on the website. The test URL is <a href="http://www.w9ccu.org/Testy">www.w9ccu.org/Testy</a> . See Marty for help. This is a Work in progress.
Public Relations (N9JPG)	There is an upcoming tech class.
Club Awards (N9MWF)	None
Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)	Special Olympics, May, 1, 2016, North Central College. Dyslexia walk along with the Shriners, May 14, 2016, Shrine Auditorium, Addison. See Steve for sign up.
CSU (N9MWF)	The CSU brakes need to be inspected and replaced if necessary.
Interference (N9VDQ)	None. There appears to be repetitive interference on .31 at about 1300 hrs, targeting KB9FEA.
Training (W9UZ)	There may be a technician class if enough attendees sign up. As of now there are only 3. See Mark if interested. If no more people sign up, this session will be cancelled.
VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)	There will be a VE team at the training sessions.
[Meeting] Program (KC9YFI)	Debbie/WX9VOR will present a video of the NWS ham station. April is undecided.
Club Nets (KC9YFI)	Club nets are still on Sunday nights. Bob/W9BK is having antenna issues. Net control operators are needed. Steve Tim for help.
Hamfest (OPEN, N0MO acting)	Kelsey, KC9CUQ, has stepped up to be the chairperson for the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary 2017 Hamfest. Vendor and Forum chairmen are needed.
Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)	None
Field Day (W9UZ, KC9YFI)	The FD team has surveyed two sites for 2016 field day. One is Cantigny Par and the other is Nike Park in

# Meeting Minutes (cont)

	Addison. A slide presentation was given on both sites. A vote was taken by the membership. As of Results as to which location.
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	None
Membership (OPEN)	Open

## CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	None

## NEW BUSINESS

Nomintation Committee	See Jim or Mark for nominations, President, Secretary and Custodian.
Budget	We have been under budget for the year..A brief discussion was held for the upcoming budge

## CLOSING

Anchors	None
Announcements	Roberto has flyers for upcoming hamfests.
Guest Comments	None
Member Comments	None
Adjournment	2045 hrs

# Club Website Makeover

Our club website at w9ccu.org is getting a makeover provided by new club member Marty KD9EJD. You can get a preview of it at [www.w9ccu.org/Testy](http://www.w9ccu.org/Testy)

The screenshot shows the website for Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs (W9CCU). The header includes the club logo, the name 'Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs', the website URL 'www.w9ccu.org', and a navigation menu with links for Home, News, About Us, Repeaters, Newsletter, Join WCRA, and Contact WCRA. Below the header is a blue banner that reads 'W9CCU's Home on the Web'. A red-bordered box contains an announcement for a 'March Meeting -- Where Are Your Dues?' with details about the meeting and dues. Below this is a section for 'Newsworthy Items' with two entries: 'April 1, 2016 Monthly Meeting' and 'Wheaton Hamfest January 17, 2016'. At the bottom is a section for 'Our Mission Statement'.

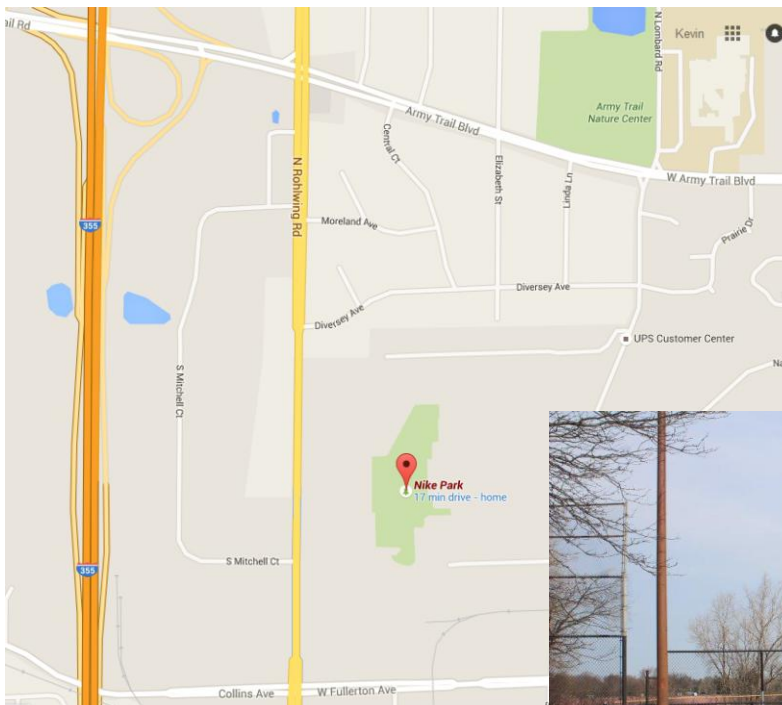
Field Day - Continued from page 1...

Co-chairman Tim Wheeler, KC9YFI, and other members of the Committee will be having meetings to tighten up the format for the annual event; for example, the number of stations, location plans, assignment of shifts and feeding arrangements. Volunteers will have their choice of an Official 2016 Field Day Tee-Shirt or an Official Cap.



“You don’t need to be an “old timer” to work Field Day. Just a willingness to pitch in to work any position that is open,” was the remark from Mark Potter. He explained that Station Captains will be assigning slots for operators and loggers as soon as the overall plan is complete. Help is always needed for set-up and takedown, at the beginning and end of the 24 hour event. “Nike” is the Goddess of Victory and Speed—hopefully that is a good omen for Field Day 2016!

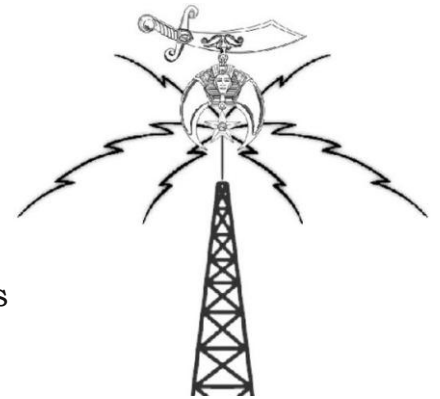
- Jim Ward



# WCRA Celebrates New Shriners Hamshack

SHRINER'S AMATEUR RADIO UNIT, K9FEZ , GRAND OPENING FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Five members of the WCRA attended this ceremony. They were John N9MWF, Roberto, WA9E and his two daughters, Mark, W9UZ and his twin grandsons, Kurt, KB9RTO and his Mom, JANIE, AG9JG. Kurt is an active Shriner and has been for many years. It was a formal affair attended by at least 100 people. Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Michael Langer, KG9KR. Dr. Mike is Class Coordinator for the Shrine club. He is working with Mark, W9UZ in our combined effort to provide Technician Class licenses for prospective Amateur radio operators during three Saturday classes offered jointly starting on March 12, 2016.



Their radio unit is second to none. It consists of THREE complete operating positions with a 90 foot high crank tower and a beam and wire antennas. Next to the station is a large conference table. The room is in an impressive large building with meeting rooms. To operate the station, one must be a member of the Shriner organization. If not a Shriner, an Amateur Radio Shriner must be present while operating.



# Progress with our Club Repeaters



Steps of Progress, by Tom, N9CBA

1. Analog repeaters
2. Fusion (analog out --everybody hears, analog or digital in)
3. "Automatic" mode-- analog in analog out, digital in digital out
4. Linking to other repeaters -- turn several repeaters in to a big repeater
5. Linking to other machines in digital. When remote activity happens, preempt analog activity.
6. Digital file transfer and other features
7. Remote access for digital users
8. Digital only to prevent interrupting progressive activity

Another view of progress is

1. Stage 1
2. Stage 2
3. Stage 3
4. Stage 4.



You need to define your envisioned endpoint to know what your version of progress really means -- maybe progress down a garden path. Progress is not always toward something better.



Check us out on  
FACEBOOK

## **“Can Ham Radio and Solar Power Coexist?”**

A ham radio friend of mine has some solar panels stored in his garage but hasn't had time to put them on the roof of his house. I suggested he read this article in the April issue of QST. It is the cover story, and starts on page 33. He should be concerned about having a 10 kW inverter located near his antenna.

The author is a retired radio broadcast engineer with a graduate degree, Larry Coyle, KIQW. He also is an extra class license holder. His first step was finding an inverter supplier who could minimize his RFI concerns.

Larry not only covers that issue, but every other part of the system; for example, whether to use a “micro inverter” or a “central inverter”. He chose the “central” when he found out that he would be generating 400 volts of DC and changing it to 240 volts of AC.

Five pages of interesting reading describe his study of the issue and his installation story. He was able minimize the RFI issue and photos of his rooftop show the panels soaking up the sun. Luckily, he lives in a rural part of New England and trees separate him from his neighbors.

He gives you a step by step plan to find the right suppliers and how to work with your local power company. On sunny days he sells his oversupply of electricity to the Utility. On dark days, he buys the electricity he needs. Don't look at this as a one-weekend project; think of it more as “remodeling your house” over a period of time.

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **WCRA Board Nominations**

### **NOMINATIONS FOR THREE WCRA BOARD MEMBERS ANNOUNCED**

The Nominating Committee has announced three members for the three openings for the 2016-2017 year. The are:

- President - Al Sawyer, K9ILF, Wheaton
- Secretary - Ken Kwasniewski, N9HQ, West Chicago
- Custodian - Dale Kwarta, NJ9E, Glen Ellyn

The Committee is pleased that the these member have agreed to accept the nominations and look forward to their effectiveness in their roles in the leadership of the club. The support of the Club membership will show our appreciation for their service.

Join us for the April meeting this Friday for our annual elections.

# Training Classes Update

This Winter we decided to combine efforts with the Shriners group to hold a Technician License Class at their facility. Instructors from both clubs participated and had access to their new amateur radio station, K9FEZ. 5 Students were enrolled in this session.





## Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,  
I read an article in an astronomy magazine that ham radio operators on Mars are trying to establish contact with alien and weird hams here on earth. Did you hear about that?

Signed, Interested operator

Dear Interested:

Yes, I did. I sent them your name, callsign and phone number.

You can tell your ham radio problems to Ms. Ode at [ann.ode@w9ccu.org](mailto:ann.ode@w9ccu.org)

## For Sale

Kenwood TL-922A HF Amplifier for repair. Cosmetically it looks very good and was working great, then one day both fuses blew within 20 seconds of turning it on. This is a repair project for someone comfortable with high voltage. This unit goes for ~\$1000 when working, but am selling it for \$475.

Kevin, N9JPG

Email: [n9jpg.ham@gmail.com](mailto:n9jpg.ham@gmail.com)

## Saturday Night Fox Hunting

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

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

Hunters gather about a half hr before the hunt. Everyone is invited to participate or ride along (call in advance). All hunts start at 8PM.

# 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

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## 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!

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### WCRA OFFICERS

President - Michael Wilson, N0MO  
Vice President - Timothy Wheeler, KC9YFI  
Treasurer - Carol Schroeder, KB9FYL  
Secretary - Ken Kwasniewski, N9HQ  
Custodian - Dale Kwart, 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.