



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 510

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DIRECTIONS TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY AND NEW MEETING LOCATION ARE ON PAGE 6

MERRY
CHRIST-
MAS and
HAPPY NEW
YEAR

From the WCRRA Board of
Directors

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Peter ,	N9HDW
Vice President	Bruce ,	K9OZ
Secretary	Mary ,	K9GAL
Treasurer	Ken ,	N9HQ
Custodian	Kurt ,	KB9RTO

Volunteer Committee Chairs

Club Call Trustee	Tom ,	N9CBA
Christmas Party	Ruth ,	KA9RZG
Club Awards	John ,	N9MWF
Elmer/Know-Code	Charlie ,	WB9SGD
Field Day	Dale ,	NJ9E
Field Day	Peter ,	N9HDW
Hamfest	John ,	WT9Y
Refreshments	Bruce ,	K9OZ
Membership	Mary ,	K9GAL
Membership Retention	Robert ,	N9XS
Public Service	Joe ,	N9WRO
VHF/HF Awards	John ,	N9MWF

Amateur License Staff

Training Classes	Jack ,	KA9HEL
Volunteer Exam.	Harry ,	K9HK

WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

Chairman	Don ,	N9NYX
Secretary	Doug ,	W9NJM
Member	George ,	KA3HSW
Member	Larry ,	KA9KDC

WCRA Radio Nets

Sunday	8:00 pm	145.390/(-600)	Net Control: Rotates
Sunday	8:30 pm	224.140/(-1.600)	Net Control: Marty KA9RCC
Tuesday	8:00 pm	145.390(-600)	ARES Net
Tuesday	8:30 pm	444.475/(5.0)	UHF Net

WCRA Repeaters

145.390/ 144.790	103.5(1A) or 107.2(1B)	PL Encode/Decode
224.140/222.540	Carries Access - SKYWARN	Service Liaison
444.475/449.475	114.8 Hz(2A)	PL Encode/ Decode
145.310/144.710	WCRA, W9CCU-1	Full Duplex Packet Reprtr

HAMLETTER

Editor	Don ,	N9NYX
Photos	Larry ,	KA9KDC
Features	Peter ,	W9UF
Features	Jim ,	W9DHX

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From the President's Gavel

by Peter, N9HDW WCRA President

The year 2005 has brought lots of changes for the WCRA, but I hope that the pace of change and the direction has found favor in you. We've brought back the summer picnic, balanced the budget, sold the truck, cleaned up insurance issues, improved the meeting programs, and more. We're working to improve the repeaters and expanding interest groups in the club. All the while sustaining membership at about 100 persons, planning another excellent hamfest and had another enjoyable Field Day.

Quite a year, and please accept my thanks and congratulations for your participation in enriching our club in so many ways.

We're having a social meeting in December this year in lieu of a Christmas Party, so come, bring your harmonics and other family on 12/2/05. (See details elsewhere in this Hamletter.) Also please remember to come to our new meeting location this month.

As we move forward into 2006, a new year, let's further our enjoyment of our hobby by inviting a friend to share in it. If it's your practice to give gifts during this season, a hamfest ticket and an offer of a ride to our hamfest in January can be an excellent way to do that, share the hobby with a friend.

73 de n9hdw,

Peace,
Peter

Have YOU sold
any Hamfest
tickets?

WCRA Meeting Minutes from November 4, 2005



WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Mary James
K9GAL
WCRA
Secretary

President **Peter N9HDW** called the meeting to order at 1930. As attendees introduced themselves, they answered these questions: Do you have a vehicle that can tow a trailer? If yes, what type of vehicle? **Tom N9WBW** made a motion the minutes of the last meeting be accepted, **Joe N9WRO** seconded, and the motion passed.

In President's Announcements, Peter said the Vehicle Definition Task Force has two co-chairs. They are **Kurt KB9RTO** and **Peter KB9KZO**. He also announced the date and details of the next Executive Board meeting. Vice President **Bruce K9OZ** briefly described how the Show &

Tell/Auction program after the meeting will run. He informed members that the meeting place is changing to First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, located at the northwest corner of Jefferson and Ellis streets. In lieu of a Christmas party, there will be a December meeting at the new location on the regular meeting date, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be "Dessert and Rag Chew," a social gathering with a very short business meeting. Members are invited to bring wives, kids and grandchildren, along with a dessert. There will be radio-related demonstrations and a couple of surprises. Custodian Kurt said the club has property members can borrow, and there will be an inventory list soon. Kurt gave some background on the buyers of the club truck and what it will be used for. Treasurer **Kent N9HQ** gave a report, and said club member **John N9NA** prepared the club's federal and state tax forms for no charge. Club members gave John a round of applause.

In Health & Welfare, Peter expressed the club's sympathy to **K9OZ** on his mother's death. He announced club members who have November birthdays. Hamfest Chair **John WT9Y** told members of upcoming events being held at the DuPage Expo in case they wanted to see the new facility. There will be a Hamfest committee meeting on Nov. 13 7 p.m. at John's house. Tickets are available from Bruce at the break. **Todd KC9HKN** passed around a sign-up list for volunteer Hamfest workers. In Public Service, Joe introduced **N9HDW**, who talked about an event scheduled for the next day: Sleep Out Saturday for the Homeless at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton. Volunteer watchers and communicators were requested. **Gordon AH6DA** reported on the VE Program, saying there will be no VE session in November, and the next session will be Dec. 22. Standing in for **John N9MWF**, Peter presented a plaque to **Mike AB9AX**, who was visiting from out of town. The award was in recognition of Mike's service as Club President. Web Team Chair **Tom N9WBW** presented a report, and said there would be another meeting soon. A motion to accept reports was made by Joe, seconded by **Marty N9NTM**, and passed.

In General Announcements, Kurt encouraged members to donate prizes for the monthly raffle. Secretary **Mary K9GAL** presented a new membership application for **Don Navarro, Jr. KB9ZLZ** of Naperville. **N9WBW** made a motion that the membership be accepted, **Dick KB9IDU** seconded, and the membership was approved. Another new member application was presented for **Mary Tuohy KC9IJO** of Bolingbrook. **Steve N9OA** made a motion Mary be accepted, **Tom N9CBA** seconded, and the new membership passed.

In Old Business, RAB **Larry KA9KDC** said the 220 repeater was being serviced. Under New Business, Steve reported on a proposal for magnetic door signs that would promote the club. The presentation was made simply to get input, and there was a positive response. **N9HDW** asked for anyone who would be interested in forming an IRLP interest group to see him at the break. Joe presented ideas he was working up for an addendum to the bylaws that would set time-lines and procedures about budgets. After discussion, Joe decided to present the addendum at the January 2006 meeting.

Tom, N9CBA made a motion the meeting be adjourned, Steve seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2017.

QST for December—Holiday Cover and All

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

Happy Holidays from ARRL—The Card is on the Cover

The Subscriber's Greetings from the ARRL pops right out at you this year—it is another issue that offers “something for everyone”—some great articles for every spectrum of the Ham Radio Hobby.

Field Day Scores

The first place you want to look is on Page 98. The fourth column under 8A shows W9CCU in fourth ranking with 1432 QSOs; a “2”, indicating less than 150 watts of power; 39 participants; and 6300 points. Leading the pack was the Eastern Connecticut AR, with 10,406 points from only 28 participants! Something to shoot for next year.

“Katrina” Ham Assistance Report Shows Up On Capitol Hill

ARRL COO made an appearance on September 29th before the House Subcommittee for Telecommunications saluting the efforts of Hams all over the US in delivering assistance during the disaster relief efforts. The page 67 article reminds us to keep alert—the next disaster might be in our area.

QRP Amplifier Turns You Flea Power Into 100 Watts

If you put a lawyer and a brain research scientist together, what do you get? A Wild & Crazy QRP Amp! WA3WDK is the attorney, and WA3LTJ is the PhD Scientist. The results of the cooperation is seven pages of photos and instructions on building the “HF Superpacker”. (Starting on Page 31) The circuit boards are available from well-known suppliers, including FAR Circuits of Dundee, IL (He spoke to our Club several years ago.)

Have You Ever Played “Radio” (The Game, that is)?

Products using the name “Radio” on them are common—how about that little red wagon called the “Radio Flyer?” But board games using that name are rather rare. The “Old Radio” column this month by John Dilks, W2TQN, illustrates one of the rarest Radio board games and describes others. You'll find the column on pages 81 and 82.

“Intergalactic Roving Battle Jitney” Developer – a Silent Key

Appearing this month in “The World Above 50MHz” on Page 78 is a tribute to one of the Ham Radio Fraternity's most unusual mobile operators. The late Bill Seabreeze, W3IY, is shown at the wheel of his vehicle, outfitted with a variety of antennas and equipment. Those of you who feel nervous about having one antenna on your car, Bill's multi-radiating machine puts you to shame!

Other coming programs and meeting dates

December

Yes, December. We are having a December meeting on our regular meeting night of the first Friday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be "Dessert and Rag Chew" two topics that are always popular with hams. We want this to be a social meeting, similar to the picnic, which was a big hit. Along those lines, we're encouraging members to bring along XYLs and Harmonics. We ask that people bring a desert -- a pie, a bag of cookies, etc, -- to share. The club will provide soft drinks and coffee. The format will basically be everyone sitting around, sharing desert and stories, with some special surprises.

We'll also have a demonstration radio or two running showing some different modes of operation and other interesting stuff.

We will be making a strong effort to get a big crowd for this meeting -- a short business meeting and plenty of time to talk, eat and have fun.

We're moving in December

If you're thinking we can't sit around tables eating cookies at our meeting location at Wheaton College, you're right. Starting in December we are moving our meeting location to the First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton. The church is in central Wheaton at the northwest corner of Franklin and Ellis streets. There's lots of parking, easy access, and a multitude of room sizes and configurations. For December we'll be in the Fellowship Hall, with access to a kitchen (for coffee) and plenty of room and tables. Starting in January we will move into a smaller classroom, similar to what we have been using at the college.

The church is at 615 West Jefferson Ave., at the corner of Jefferson and Ellis. From downtown Wheaton, go north five blocks on Main St., then west four blocks to Jefferson. There is a large parking lot at that corner, which is the southeast corner of the church. There is an entrance at the back of the lot. Go in the entrance and head north, as the December meeting is toward the back of the building. We will have someone on talk-in on the repeater, and people stationed to guide everyone to the meeting room for January. A map is below.

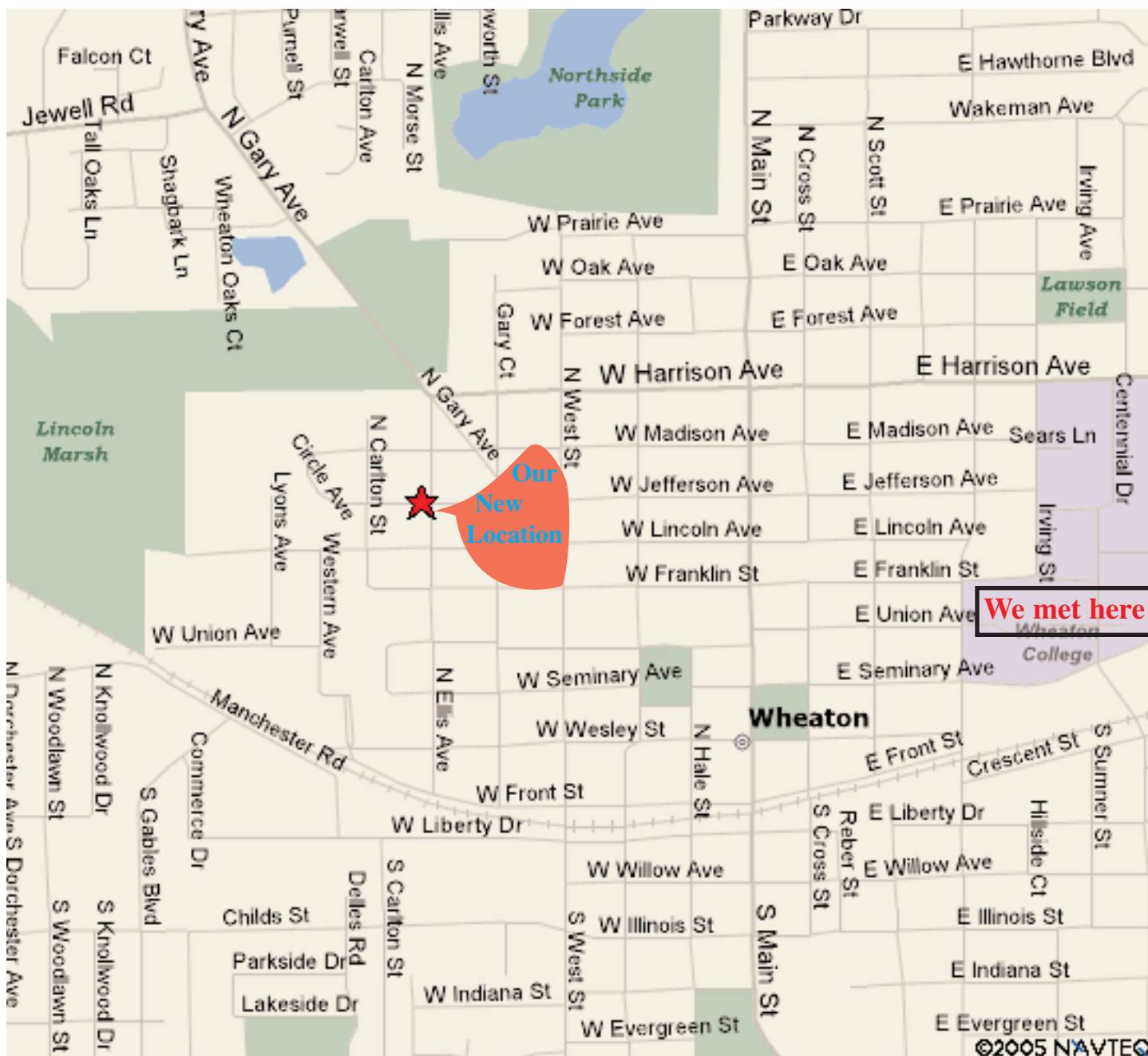
January meeting

January meeting will be January 6, 2006 at the First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton. The program will be on the Hamfest. The business meeting will include a discussion/forum between the club members and the Vehicle Definition Task Force. This is the time to air your views on what direction the club should take in replacing the truck.

Hamletter help needed

You've been receiving a shortened version of the Hamletter in the mail each month, and feedback from club members is that they enjoy and appreciate it. It does take a couple hours of work to get the Hamletter copied, attach labels and postage and get it in the mail. Your vice president, K9OZ, has been doing this job, but would like some replacement/help. If you're interested in helping out with a couple hours of volunteer work for the club a month, contact Bruce at k9oz@aol.com.

The map below from MAPQUEST shows both our old meeting location at Wheaton College Billy Graham Center and the new Location at First



Presbyterian Church 615 W. Jefferson Ave., Wheaton, Illinois. You can see that we have only moved from close-in Northeast Wheaton to close-in Northwest Wheaton. Talk-in for the Christmas Party will be available on the 2 Meter repeater at 145.39.

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

CHARLES	WJ9N
BOB	W3MDM
DON	K9MUF
MARTY	KA9RCC
DOUG	W9NJM
JOHN	N9GLZ
LARRY	WA9RTE
GEORGE	KA3HSW

Remember that if you do not see your birthday on this monthly list it is because the FCC stopped including this piece of data several years ago and the editor does not have your information in his database. If you would like to see your birthday appear here please forward your information to the editor.

Amateur Radio Toy Store

117 W. Wesley St.
Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 668-9577
Fax: (630) 690-9335

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DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st: Club Brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursdays 10:30 AM Carol's Garden, Carol Stream.
- 2nd: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. This is our first meeting at the church and we will find out the room we are meeting in upon our arrival this Friday evening. Talk-in on .39 will give everyone directions to the church and also where our meeting room is inside the church. See the map on page two. Program will be dessert and rag chew. This will be a get acquainted with both 1st Presbyterian and our extended club family much as we did at the picnic at Herrick Lake.
- 6th: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for December. Remember we are doing a limited printed edition. **Please be prompt.**
- 22nd: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting -November 4th, 2005 -Wheaton College 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 fat pills. This is followed by an amateur radio related program. We would like to see you there to share the enthusiasm.

HAMLETTER

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First Class Mail

