



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 513

Founded 1948

March 2006



WCRA WANTS YOU!

To run for office

At the April membership meeting of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs, the membership will be voting to fill three positions in the club: President, Secretary, and Custodian. If you feel called to serve your fellow club members and would like to toss your hat in the ring, please notify the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Steve, N9OA. You may self nominate or after receiving permission from another club member you may place that person's name in the queue for nominations. This is an all volunteer organization and we need motivated and qualified individuals to step forward and be willing to serve. Please consider running for one of the three open positions. Nominations will be taken right up until the voting process begins at the April meeting.

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR DUES IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO. PLEASE SEE THE APPLICATION THAT IS NEAR THE BACK OF THIS HAMLETTER. REMEMBER THAT ONLY PAID UP MEMBERS MAY VOTE.

FUTURE MEETINGS

March

In March we'll have an informative program on IRLP, presented by Dick Illman, AH6EZ, the president of the Fox River Radio League. Dick was an early adopter of IRLP and will talk about how it works, and how it's worked for the FRRL. The meeting will be held Friday, March 3 at the First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton.

April

On Friday, April 7, Bob, W3MDM, will give us a presentation on the theory and usage of antenna tuners. We'll have some tuners set up in our second room, and give people a chance to experiment and play with tuners. The annual club election will also be held in April. Be sure to attend to vote

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

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From the President's Gavel

by Peter, N9HDW WCRA President

It's mid-February as I write this and I find it hard to wait for our upcoming club meeting for two reasons. First we have an excellent program scheduled on a topic of special interest to me, IRLP. IRLP is the Internet Radio Linking Project which uses Voice-over IP (VOIP) software to connect ham radio repeaters. This allows two distant repeaters to allow users to talk to each other as if they were on a common single repeater system. This can even extend to global, other-side of the world QSOs using an HT!

The other reason the March meeting excites me is that we'll find out who is running for the three officer positions up for election at our April meeting. These positions are President, Secretary, and Custodian. I encourage you to run for office yourself, and nominate a friend whom you think would serve well. The three positions are for two-year terms serving from May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2008. Our Treasurer and Vice-President terms are not up for election this year and continue through April 30, 2007. Submit your nominations to the Nominating Committee chaired by Steve N9OA.

The next Executive Board meeting will be Wednesday 3/22/06 at 7 PM at my QTH, 1555 Orchard Road, Wheaton. All members are welcome. Let me know in advance to make sure there's enough seats. And if you have a topic you want on the agenda, let me know as well.

It's not too early to be thinking and planning what station you will run or

help run at Field Day (June 25 - 26, 2006), Let our Field Day Chairman Dale NJ9E know if you have this in mind. Also let him know if you would like to help lead FD. Help is welcome!

As the spring weather, especially the gusty winds of March and April are just around the corner, now's a good time to plan that spring maintenance on the outdoor antennae and supports. While this has seemed a mild winter by many accounts,
(Continued on Page 8)

WCRA Meeting Minutes from Feb. 3, 2006



WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Mary James
K9GAL
WCRA
Secretary

President **Peter N9HDW** called the meeting to order at 1930. As board and attendees introduced themselves they answered these questions: "What was the first year that you attended a WCRA Hamfest? Also, briefly, what was your initial impression of the event? Compare that to the 2006 WCRA Hamfest just passed.

A motion was made to accept the minutes with a correction that sympathies were extended to Dale and Ruth on the passing of Dale's mom (not what had appeared in the published version

of the minutes). **Gregg KB9DBC** made the motion, **Tom N9WBW** seconded, and the motion passed.

Peter made announcements about March's executive board meeting, 2006 officer elections and membership dues. Vice President **Bruce K9OZ** talked about the evening's program and those scheduled for the next two months. Secretary **Mary K9GAL** presented new membership forms for **George Geotsalitis NB9R** of La Grange and **Victor Kartashov AJ9M** of Carol Stream. Treasurer **Ken N9HQ** reported on Hamfest 2006, and said he is investigating short-term investment opportunities. Custodian **Kurt KB9RTO** said the club will be purchasing bins to organize inventory in storage. Peter asked the club to join him in congratulating members with birthdays in February.

Hamfest **John WT9Y** said the club did better than expected on the Hamfest. John thanked club members for supporting the event, and said the committee would meet soon. Hamfest Ticket Chair Bruce presented certificates to **Marty N9MTM** and **Roberto WA9E** for selling the most tickets. Volunteer Worker Coordinator **Todd KC9HKN** again thanked members for working at the Hamfest, and announced worker prizes would be handed out during the break. **John N9MWF** outlined upcoming Public Service events. Peter announced dates for Dayton Hamvention and Field Day. Field Day **Dale NJ9E** announced the need for a co-chair and committee members. VE Program **Gordon AH6DA** reported on recent sessions. Web Team **Tom N9WBW** gave an update on the club's site.

Marty made a motion reports be accepted, **Janie AE9JG** seconded, and it passed. **George NE9ET** made a motion new members be accepted, **Dick KB9IDU** seconded, and the motion passed.

In a general call for announcements, Peter mentioned Jamboree on the Air and the possibility of club members getting together at the Dayton Hamvention. He asked anyone interested in these two things to talk to him.

Under Old Business, it was announced that a club member has offered to purchase the satellite rotor from the club. Anchors were presented.

Tom made a motion the meeting be adjourned, Janie seconded, the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2032.



Activities on the HF Bands

by:
Peter Barr
W9UF

Stan, OK1JR/NT3I (Ex. YBØAJR, 5NØMSV, D2FGC, ZA/OK1JR, etc), has been in Vietnam for four months and has now obtained his new call, which is 3W9JR. His license, which is good for a year, is limited to 12, 15, 17 and 20 meters CW and SSB only. Plans are to be in the country for approximately two years. He hopes to obtain permission to operate on the low bands, 6 meters and digital modes soon. He has an FT-1000MP MKV running 100 watts into a 12 element log periodic which covers 10-30 MHz. He will be active in his spare time, which will probably be weekdays after work (1ØØØ-16ØØz) and

during the weekends and contests. QSL cards should go only to Stan's father, OK1JN.

Didier, F5OGL has announced that the Glorioso Island (AF-Ø11) expedition previously planed from March 16th to April 7th is one more time postponed but still not cancelled. A TV reporter team could join the expedition when it is next rescheduled. They will update their Web site as soon as possible at:

<http://glorieuses2005.free.fr/>

Peter, HA3AUI, continues to be active as 6W/HA3AUI from Senegal until March 31st. His main focus is on 20 and 17 meter phone, with some PSK and RTTY. However, he has also been heard on 15 meters. His operating varies, but watch 20 meters after 11ØØz, 17 meters after 16ØØz and 15 meters after 13ØØz. QSL to his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

Members of the Texas DX Society (TDXS) are pleased to announce their DXpedition to Malta (IOTA EU-Ø23), March 1-8th. Team Malta members are: Cal/WF5W (9H3W), Steve/W9DX (9H3DX), Madison/W5MJ (9H3V), Don/N5DD (9H3RY), Bill/K5WAF (9H3WF), Mike/K5UO (9H3UO), Paul/W5PF (9H3PF) and Keith/NM5G (9H3KD). They will participate in the ARRL International DX Phone Contest, March 4-5th, as 9H3DX. During non-contest periods all 9H3 callsigns may be used, but primary activity will be 9H3DX on SSB, 9H3V on CW, 9H3RY on RTTY, and 9H3WF on PSK. They will be active on 80-10 meters and possibly 160m. QSL Manager is W5PF for all callsigns. Visit the TDXS Web site for more details and online log searches at: <http://www.tdxs.org>

Peter, W2IRT, will be in Nassau operating as C6/W2IRT for the week of March 4-10th. He plans to be on 17 and 20 meters for the most part using 100w and a dipole. This is a spare-time holiday operation. QSL via his home callsign direct, by the bureau or LoTW.

Operators Marc, F1HAR, Olivier, F5MZN, Laurent, F6FVY and Herve, F5HRY will be active as FY5KE on French Guyana in the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 4-5th) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via the Bureau or direct to CBA.

IOTA

Aniko, HA5TAA an XYL from Budapest, Hungary was rewarded a Far East trip by the company she works for and is expected to activate Tioman Island (AS- Ø46) for about seven days out of her 14 day and 12 night trip between February 27th and March 12th. Look for 9M2/HA5TAA to be active on 20 meters SSB around March 3rd. Aniko has been a radio amateur for about four years. Her husband is also a ham; HA5AZZ. QSL via the

HA QSL Bureau or via the address on QRZ.com.

IOTA frequencies –

CW 28.040 24.920 21.040 18.098 14.040 10.114 7.030 3.530
SSB 28.560 28.460 24.950 21.260 18.128 14.260 7.055 3.765

DXCC NEWS

Bill Moore, NC1L, The ARRL DXCC Branch Manager, has announced that the following are approved for DXCC credit: R1MVC and R1MVW - Malyj Vysotskij Island (M-V Island) Operation from November 15 – 28, 2005.

SPECIAL EVENTS

To commemorate 128th anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman yoke by Russia, the Balkan Contest Club LZ1KZA (LZ5A) will operate with special event callsign LZ128LO from March 1-31st. Also, the special event callsign LZ128LO counts 10 points for the "St. Teodosii Tynovski Award" For details, visit: www.balkanclub.8m.com QSL to LZ1KZA via the Bureau or direct to: P.O. Box 36, 4300 Karlovo, BULGARIA.

Mar 1-Mar 4, 1600z-2200z, Arlington Heights, IL. Peace Corps Amateur Radio Club, KA9NLX. To honor sacrifices made by American Peace Corps Volunteers. 21.375 14.325 7.283 3.980; 10 m if open. Certificate. John Paskevicz, 1423 N Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

Mar 3-Mar 6, 1500z-2400z, Fulton, MO. Callaway Amateur Radio League, W0C. 60th anniversary of Winston Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech. 14.275 14.070 14.040 147.315. Certificate. Richard C. White, 826 Evergreen Dr, Fulton, MO 65251. <http://callaway.county.missouri.org/car/>.

Mar 4-Mar 5, 1300z-2300z, Moscow, PA. Northeast Pennsylvania Special Event Club, KV3T. Promoting Amateur Radio Awareness. 14.240 7.240 7.100 3.840. QSL. David M. Samsell, W3LOW, 923 Clearview Rd, Moscow, PA 18444. <http://kv3t.tripod.com>.

Mar 11, 1700z-2100z, Newport News, VA. Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service, W4CAR. Commemorating the 144th anniversary of the Battle of the Ironclads. 28.362 21.362 7.262 7.070. Certificate. W4CAR, PO Box 6867, Chesapeake, VA 23323. www.qsl.net/cars/.

Mar 15-Apr 15, 0000z-2400z, Watseka, IL. Iroquois County Amateur Radio Club, W9RWX. 30th year of the Glenn Raymond School Science Club. 14.275 14.070 14.230 7.050. QSL. Troy Simpson, 101 W Mulberry St, Watseka, IL 60970. www.icarc.com. (Operation depends on school schedule.)

Mar 18, 1500z-2200z, Macon, GA. Macon Amateur Radio Club, W4BKM. 24th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival. 145.370 14.240 10.110 7.055. Certificate. Macon ARC, PO Box 4862, Macon, GA 31208. www.qsl.net/w4bkm.

Mar 25, 1300z-1700z, Brampton, ON Canada. Peel and Mississauga Amateur Radio Club, VE3XR. Ham-Ex Annual Hamfest. 14.265 7.215. QSL. Jeff Richardson, 36 Crawley Dr, Brampton, ON L6T 2S1, Canada. www.peelarc.org or www.marc.on.ca. (Note: US postage cannot be used in Canada.)

Mar 25-Mar 26, 1300z-2200z, Moss, Norway and Virginia Beach, VA. Mossegruppen av NRRL and Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club, Inc, LA5M and W4UG. 115th Anniversary of the Norwegian Lady. Norway: 28.363 21.192 18.164 18.145 14.278 14.070 7.040 (7.121 morning); US: 14.278 14.040 7.280 7.040. Certificate. Norway: Haakon Andreassen, LA1YKA, PO Box 88, N-1501 Moss, Norway. US: VBARC, PO Box 62003, Virginia Beach, VA 23462.

Certificates and QSL cards: To obtain a certificate from any of the special-event stations offering them, send your QSO information along with a 9?12 inch self-addressed, stamped envelope to address listed in the announcement. To receive a special event QSL card (when offered), be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped business envelope along with your QSL card and QSO information.

CONTESTS

Time	Date	Contest	Band	Mode
0000z 2359z	Mar 4 Mar 5	ARRL Int'l DX Contest www.arrl.org	160-10	SSB
0400z 0600z	Mar 4 Mar 4	Wake Up! QRP Sprint ruqrp.narod.ru/index_e.html	40-80	CW
0000z 0400z	Mar 12 Mar 12	North American RTTY Sprint www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php	80/40/20	RTTY
0000z 2359z	Mar 13 Mar 14	YLISSB QSO Party www.qsl.net/yl-issb/	160-10	SSB
1700z 1700z	Mar 18 Mar 19	CLARA & Family HF Party	160-10	CW/SSB
1200z 1200z	Mar 19 Mar 20	Russian DX Contest www.rdx.org	160-10	CW/SSB
0000z 2359z	Mar 18 Mar 18	10-10 Int'l Mobile Contest www.ten-ten.org	10	CW/SSB
0200z 0400z	Mar 19 Mar 19	Run for the Bacon Sprint	80-10	CW
1200z 1600z	Mar 19 Mar 19	KCC Kuwaiti DX Contest www.qsl.net/9kcc/	15	CW/SSB
0000z 2359z	Mar 25 Mar 26	CQ WW Prefix DX Contest	160-10	SSB

<http://cqww.com>

ØØØØz	Mar 27	QRP Homebrew		
Ø4ØØz	Mar 27	Sprint	80-10	CW & PSK31
		www.njqrp.org		

DX Strays

Willi, DJ7RJ will be active as SV5/DJ7RY from Dodecanese (Island of Kos, EU-ØØ1) between February 26th and March 18th. Most of the activity will be on the lower bands. QSL to his home callsign.

Johnny, LA5IIA is back in Kabul, Afghanistan and is active again as T68G. He's been reported was heard this past week on 20 meters SSB and 17 meters CW. The length of his stay is not known. QSL via LA4YW.

Roberto, IV3IYH will be signing as TO3W from Martinique in the CQWW WPX SSB March 25-26. He will be on the WARC bands and RTTY before and after the WPX event, either as FM/IV3IYH or FM/NQ5W. QSL to IK2ILH via bureau or direct. Roberto says he QSLs 100 percent.

Look for J37K now through March 6 including the ARRL DX SSB contest March 4-5. The operators are Harry, AC8G and Will, VE3EBN. QSL via AC8G direct with a SASE.

Jose, 3B8/ON4LAC will be on Mauritius (AF-Ø49) March 17 to May 13. He hopes to get authorization for an operation from Rodrigues as 3B9/ON4LAC during the April 25 through May 13 part of that period. Jose will be on 80-10M SSB, RTTY and PSK31.

Harry, 7Q7HB is back in Malawi for at least three months. He has taken software this time that will allow him to get on some digital modes. QSL direct only, to GØIAS, Allan Hickman, The Conifers, High Street, Elkesley, Retford, Nottingham DN22 8AJ, UNITED KINGDOM.

JT1Y from Ulanbaatar and JTØY from Oigij, both in Mongolia, will be on the air between April 18th and May 8. The operators will be IØSNY, I2FUG, IK2AQZ and IK2JYT. Activity will be on CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK on HF, emphasizing 17 and 12 meters. QSL via IØSNY.

Sylvain, F5TLN is using the callsign TT8LN while in Chad until June. QSL his home call, preferably direct, but the bureau is acceptable too. You can set up skeds by emailing him at f5tln@free.fr.

VE2CRAQ in Quebec, Canada, will be on March 18-26 to mark 80 years of the Club Radio Amateur de Quebec, founded in 1926. > They will have a QSO Party open to all, details at <http://www.craq.qc.ca>.

CQIR (Ireland Calling: Preliminary Announcement: Win a trip to Ireland!). In 2007, the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS) celebrates their 75th anniversary of its founding in 1932. As part of its jubilee celebrations the Society is organizing an International Radio Contest, "CQIR - Ireland Calling". For this contest, references to Ireland mean the island of Ireland - both EI and GI - and its offshore islands. CQIR is a once-off event with a difference - overseas entrants with 75 or more QSOs have the opportunity to win a trip to Ireland. CQIR is a 24-hour, single-operator HF CW/SSB contest on the weekend of September 29 and 30, 2007. As this is the fifth full weekend in the month, there is no clash with any estab-

lished event. CQIR is a celebration of both the IRTS Jubilee and the "Irish" amateur community worldwide. It's where the Irish, at home and abroad, work the World - and where those of Irish descent identify themselves by including their ancestral county in the exchange, for example: County Limerick, County Antrim etc. Full rules and county codes will appear on the IRTS Web page at: <http://www.irts.ie>
Also, free software will be provided to support CQIR.

Brad, K7ZSD, will be active as CN2SD from Morocco March 20-28th. He will also be active in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (March 25-26th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (20m) entry. QSL via K7ZSD.

Thanks this month to Bernie, W3UR and his Daily DX Bulletin, Tedd, KB8NW and the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin, and the ARRL for information used this month.

**DUES ARE DUE, DUES ARE
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DUE, GET THE IDEA?**

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S GAVEL (Continued from Page 2)

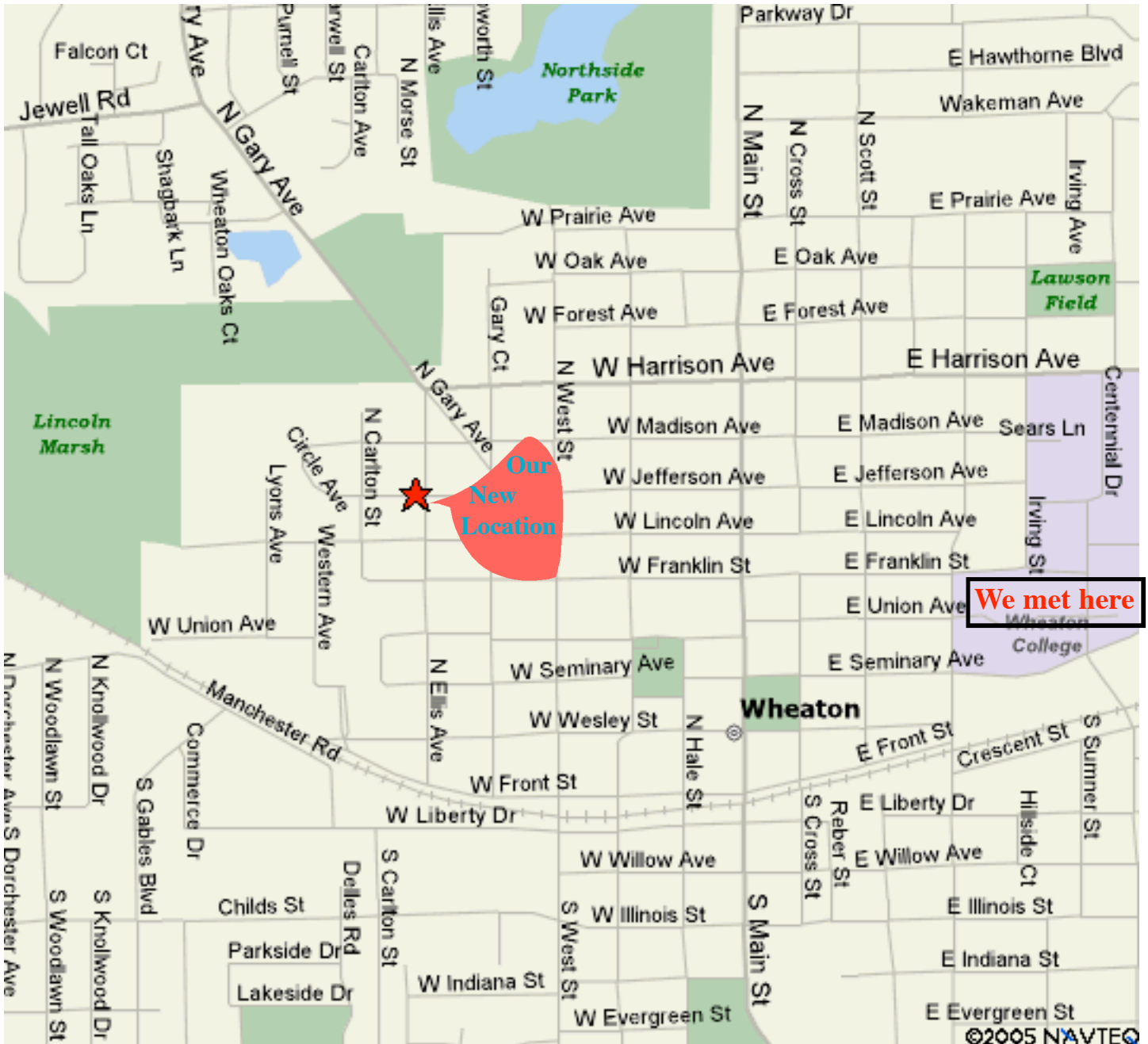
the elements have been beating on our elements. UV has been doing its task wearing down coatings, and the wind has not been idle either.

I encourage you to bring a friend to our meetings. This is a great way for him or her to meet other hams, enjoy some comradery and a great program. CU there!

73 de n9hdw.

Peace,
Peter

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 will be available on the 2 Meter repeater at 145.39(-).

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF MARCH

KURT
DON
JON
MIKE
BOB
BRUCE

KB9RTO
WB9VFC
KA9EPK
N9KYG
W9TIE
KA0DSF

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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Monday — Saturday

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It's time to renew

Dear WCRA member:

We want to make it as easy as possible to renew, so simply fill out this letter and return it with your check to: **WCRA, P.O. Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60189**. Or bring this form and your check to January or February meeting.

Renewal deadline is prior to the annual election, which will take place at the April 7, 2006 meeting.

WCRA Renewal

Name: _____

Call on roster _____ ARRL member? Yes No

Dues:

Full Member	\$26
Student/Senior Citizen	\$13
Associate	\$13
Family	\$39

Please enter only information that has changed

New Call: _____ License Class: _____

New Address: _____

New Phone: _____

New e-mail: _____

Exclude from Roster: Phone e-mail

Please initial: _____ Today's date: _____

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 2nd: Club Brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursdays 10:30 AM Carol's Garden, Carol Stream.
- 3rd: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. See map elsewhere in this issue for directions. Talk-in on .39 will give everyone directions to the church and also where our meeting room is inside the church. Program for March will be on IRLP. (See article on front page)
- 7th: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 20th: **DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS** for April Remember we are doing a limited printed edition. **Please be prompt.**
- 23rd: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting -March 3rd, 2006, First Presbyterian Church 615 W. Jefferson Ave., Wheaton, Illinois 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

Club and HamLetter Mailing Address:

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First Class Mail

