



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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January is Hamfest preparation month with **John, WT9Y**, Hamfest Chairman, going over last minute details and **John, N9MWF**, discussing the Vehicle Definition Task Force.



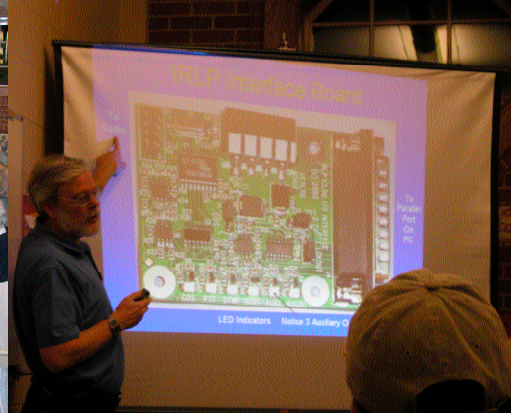
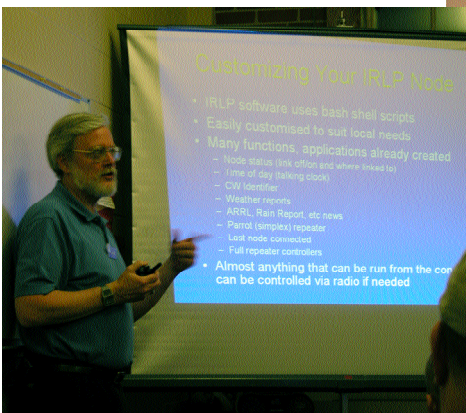
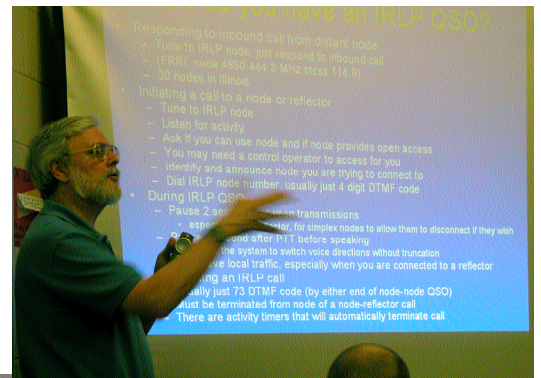
Recent meeting pictures

In February, **John N9JZX**, a local Ham who spent two weeks volunteering in relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina,

Dick, AH6EZ, president of the Fox Radio Relay League, giving an outstanding presentation on IRLP, its implementation and use at the March membership meeting.



gives a Power Point talk on lessons learned from the prospective of a Ham volunteering into the disaster area.



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
Public Service	Joe ,	N9WRO
VHF/HF Award	John ,	N9MWF
Webmaster	Tom ,	N9WBW

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 Repr	

HAMLETTER

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From the President's Gavel

by Peter, N9HDW WCRA President

If you attended the March WCRA club meeting, you got a real treat when **Dick, AH6EZ**, president of the FRRL, gave an outstanding presentation on IRLP. There was such a positive response that the Executive Board at its March meeting voted to direct the RAB to implement IRLP on one of the club repeaters. This will be put to the general membership for a confirmation vote at the April club meeting. If you want IRLP on a WCRA repeater, vote yes at the April meeting.

On a different note the announcement at the March club meeting of who is running for election for club officers was empty. No one had revealed that they would be running for any of the positions up for election: 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. Or make them in person at the April meeting. Please obtain consent of anyone you will be nominating.

The club needs your leadership. Some have suggested they are so happy with the current roster of officers that they hope the retiring officers would run for re-election. Each of those officers, including myself, have expressed clearly that do not plan to run for re-election. So please focus on the future, savor those good things in the past year, and build on them. Look for a
(Continued on Page 4)

DUES ARE DUE, **DUES ARE DUE,**
DUES ARE DUE, DUES ARE DUE,
DUES ARE DUE, DUES ARE
 DUE, **DUES ARE DUE,** DUES ARE
 DUE, **DO YOU READ ME?**

WCRA Minutes for March 3, 2006



WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Mary James
K9GAL
WCRA
Secretary

President **Peter N9HDW** called the meeting to order at 1930. Board members and attendees introduced themselves, and answered this question: "When and how have you served as an elected WCRA officer?"

Tom N9WBW made a motion the minutes be accepted as published, **Steve N9OA** seconded and the motion passed. Peter made the President's Announcements. Vice President **Bruce K9OZ** reported on upcoming programs. Secretary **Mary K9GAL** gave a report on membership. Treasurer **Ken N9HQ** presented a

report. Custodian **Kurt KB9RTO** reminded members that the club has equipment that can be borrowed.

John N9MWF informed members of upcoming Public Service events, and asked interested members to fill in the sign-up sheets being passed around. **RAB Larry KA9KDC** said the 220 repeater had quit working, and **Roberto WA9E** is looking into what will be required to repair it. **Gordon AH6DA** summed up recent results of the VE Program. Web Team **Tom N9WBW** talked about new features of the club's site.

Gregg KB9DBC made a motion reports be accepted, **Dick KB9IDU** seconded, and the motion passed. In New Business, Nominating Chair **Steve** summed up news on elections for President, Secretary and Property Custodian that will take place on April 7. **Tom** made a motion the meeting be adjourned, **Janie AE9JG** seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2008.

"Donations for funerary flowers are being taken by Bruce K9OZ for the flowers sent on the passing of Dale NJ9E's mom a few months ago, and for Ruth KA9RZG's mom this past month. In the 2005-2006 WCRA budget, flowers for health and welfare are to be funded by donations and are not paid by the club budget. So please give if you are so inclined."

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.

From the President's Gavel (Continued from page 2)

description of the three positions elsewhere in this issue of the Hamletter in an article by Steve N9OA. I would appreciate it if you'd take a few minutes to read those job descriptions. You'll likely find you are talented enough to do at least one of those officer jobs. Then it takes making the commitment. Please consider this. And all the previous officers of the club are supportive of you and willing to act as advisors as you wish. Further, the club supports you.

One more thought on our elections and leadership. We have a club that is extremely talented. We seem to have plenty of volunteers for all our activities: hamfest, field day, parades, etc. Should you be inclined to run for office, you can count on this background of volunteers to follow your lead.

The next Executive Board meeting will be the Officer Transition Meeting at my QTH, 1555 Orchard Road, Wheaton. The date will be set once the new officers are elected at a time good for the old and the new officers. It is a great opportunity to "pass the torch" of leadership and get the new club year of 2006-2007 off to a good start.

I find myself getting excited about the spring and early summer because of two things in ham radio I really enjoy: Dayton and Field Day. The Hamvention at Dayton is the biggest amateur radio conference and hamfest in North America. If you think our hamfest is great, as I do, the Dayton Hamvention is stellar. Hams come from all over the world to share, to learn, to sell, to buy, and most important to me, to get inspired. Some of my "coolest" wireless projects got their burst of inspiration at Dayton, such as the microwave data link at Field Day 2004. "Dayton" is May 19-21, 2006 in Dayton, Ohio. If you want to go, I still have a couple unreserved spots in my motorhome for the trip. (Hint.)

June means Field Day to me. 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! He does a great job but needs more people on the FD committee. I'm working on a skunk works project which involves ATV and mobility. After the March club meeting, a tease demo was given in the church parking lot. The reaction was so positive I am sure it will be fun. More later.

Last, I'd like to give a brief State of the Club summary for the past year that I've served as your president. Thanks to all for a great year. We have seen membership holding steady at about 100 members. The treasury is sound with enough funds to pre-pay the 2007 Hamfest startup costs, as well as run the club on the budget developed in summer 2005. Our bills are being paid on time, and we're living within that budget. Give our Treasurer Ken N9HQ a good word when you get a chance.

Hamfest 2006 was excellent. John WT9Y, the Hamfest Committee and a bevy of volunteers made it fun, successful and worthwhile. Please recall it is our only fund raising activity other than collecting membership dues. Thanks!

The program part of our club meetings have been outstanding for which we all owe Bruce K90Z our Vice President a hearty Thank You. 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!

Along that line of thought, we had two extra events this past year that seemed really welcomed by the members: the summer picnic, and the winter party. While largely social in nature, the turnout was good and the comradery was as well.

This past year we sold the club truck to stabilize our costs in that area. We will be voting at the May club meeting on the Vehicle Definition Task Force's recommendation regarding a new vehicle. (Come and vote at that meeting or send a vote by post to P.O. Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60189 before 4/25/2006. See elsewhere in this issue of the Hamletter and also in the May Hamletter for the VDTF recommendation.)

Perhaps the strongest impression I have of this past year is the enthusiasm of the club, seen at meetings, at the hamfest, at Field Day, at the response to requests for volunteers, and the friendliness of the membership. I commend you. **(Continued on page 6)**

MARCH QST REVIEWED—NEW FORMAT!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

“New Format” for an Old Periodical –Including a “Letters to the Editors” Section

Those ARRL guys are sharpening up their editing skills and have added a “Correspondence” section to let you vent your complaints—or be congratulatory. Two whole pages on 24 and 25 about what hams think about current topics. You could get your name in print Just e-mail: qst@arrl.org or write at “Correspondence”, ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

“Non-Tower” DX Antenna—Just Right for a Big Lot with Tall Trees—See Page 28

Jealous of your fellow hams with wide open spaces and a big tower? Read Tony Estep, KTONY’s article on how he became a proficient DXer with wires that decorated his suburban lot. Best of all, he didn’t get into and disagreements with his neighbors!

Building a “roll your own” Homebrew Transceiver

Markus Hansen, VE7CA, has his own website (www.shelbrook.com/~ve7ca) and is a veteran ham, being licensed since 1959. You’ll marvel at his adventures in hf receiver design and construction. Even if you don’t build it, you’ll enjoy reading the story on pages 36 through 38.

2005 BSA Jamboree Takes Over Fort Hill, near Bowling Green, Virginia

Fifty-two Hams volunteered to make last year’s Jamboree attendees aware of the “ham radio opportunity”. With 35,000 Scouts on the site, Station K2BSA in action was possible due to the hams who paid their own way and gave up two or more weeks of their time so that the thousands of scouts could watch ham radio perform. The cooperation between the ARRL and a variety of Vendors and Equipment Manufacturers was great. Read the story on page 44 and 45.

VE Testing Where? In Iraq?

In the middle of all the controversy about our presence in the Middle East, would you believe that the U. S. Embassy has the time and the nerve to act as the testing site for prospective hams? Page 46 and 47 will tell you all about it. The author is an officer with the 353rd Civil Affairs Brigade, US Army Reserve, and has just returned from a year of active duty. He is Bruce McPherson, AB3AC/YI9AC

From “Soldiering” to “Soldering” – A Hot Topic

We’ve gone a long way from the giant “Soldering Iron” heated by a blow torch. to the modern temperature controlled “stations”. The latest in equipment gets a review on Page 51. Don Daso, K4ZA, tells us that the “tip” is the key to success in soldering. He also stresses “safety”—and watch out for the old bugaboo—a “cold” solder joint. That has ruined many a home brew project!

Meet the New President of ARRL- Joel Harrison, W5ZN –of Judsonia, Arkansas (**Continued on page 6**)

From the President's Gavel (Continued from page 4)

73 de n9hdw

Peace,
Peter

WCRA President 2005-2006

MARCH QST REVIEWED—NEW FORMAT! (Continued from page 5)

Harrison was the Board's selection, and his ideas for the future of Ham Radio sound interesting. You can read about what he hopes to accomplish on page 58. Congratulations, Joel, and we wish you well—it is a big job!

-73-

Nominating Committee Checking In

Steve Peterson, ARS N9OA, Chairman

Friends, the time has come once again for our annual elections which are to take place at the annual meeting which takes the place of our April meeting each year. This year there are openings in the office of President, Secretary and Property Custodian.

Below, I have included an abridged section of the by-laws relative to the duties of officer. I left out the part about 1999 officers and the two offices that remain filled:

“WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS BY-LAWS

“ARTICLE II OFFICERS: Election of officers shall take place at the annual meeting each year, by a majority vote of the FULL members present. Officers shall serve for a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected ... Each term of office shall begin on May 1 of the year in which elected.

“An executive session of the outgoing and incoming Executive Board members shall be held not later than twenty-one (21) days following the annual meeting.

“Executive Board - This Board shall consist of the five officers of the Club, of which the Club President shall preside as Chairperson. It shall be authorized to suggest policies, new projects, programs, appoint committee chairpersons, and to carry on such business as may be required in the general operation of the Club. Executive Board meetings will be announced and all FULL members may attend, except during executive sessions.

“President - The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club, and conduct them according to the (Continued on Page 7)

Nominating Committee Checking In (Continued from page 6)

rules adopted. He/she shall enforce due observance of the By-Laws, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents adopted by the Club, appoint committee chairpersons, and perform all other duties pertaining to the office of President. At the expiration of the term, he/she shall turn over all records and items belonging to the club to the successor.

“Secretary - The Secretary shall keep a record of the attendance and proceedings of all club meetings, carry on all correspondence, read communications at each meeting, and arrange for written meeting notices to each member. At the expiration of the term, he/she shall turn over all records and items belonging to the Club to the successor.

“Property Custodian - The duty of the Property Custodian shall be to keep control and cost data, in a bound book provided by the club for that purpose, on all equipment owned by the Club. Such equipment may be loaned to Club members by him/her, but only for stated periods of time. The member borrowing equipment shall sign for it in the record book. Members shall be required to return equipment to the Property Custodian at the time specified, and shall not lend it to other members or non-members. It shall also be the duty of the Property Custodian to keep the equipment in good operating condition, requesting any assistance needed from the Club members, Where amounts greater than the approved budget are required to repair equipment, authorization must be approved by a majority of voting FULL members present at a regular meeting. At the end of his/her term he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the Club to his/her successor.”

Essentially, the duties of officers can be summed up as follows:

The president is the chief executive officer of the corporation that is the club and is ultimately responsible for all of the club’s activities. In addition, the president is responsible for running the membership and executive board meetings.

The secretary is responsible for keeping the minutes of both meetings, passing out the attendance clipboard, reading any mail that the club receives and making sure that the newsletter editor has the meeting date in the newsletter.

The property custodian is responsible for keeping track of everything the the club owns and making sure that everything works and is returned if borrowed.

All officers simply have to give anything that they have that the club owns to their successor.

Any one interested in holding office should contact me at (630) 901-6962. One side note, Kurt, KB9RTO will be acting as Deputy Chairman of this project beginning April 1; please contact him for the same purpose beginning April 1.

Late word from Peter, N9HDW, President and Steve, N9OA, of the Nominating Committee show the following candidates:

President: Steve, N9OA; Don, N9NYX

Secretary: Open

Custodian: Peter, KB9KZO

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I'd like to invite the club members over to my house for a coffee and to see my new tower and station on the anniversary of beginning construction of the tower installation on Saturday, April 8th. 10 AM till Noon.

73, John, N9NA

Web Site News

We are now in a position to offer email addresses to the WCRA General Membership. All that we require is that you are a member in good (dues are paid) standing. The accounts are available in a couple of ways:

* If you chair a committee, or are an officer (or will be after the election-That's a Chicago Joke if ever there was one) there can be an address for you. For example, president@w9ccu.org, or hamfest@w9ccu.org. Addresses like this can be particularly handy as officers and committee chairs change. It represents 1 set of contacts, that can be almost self maintaining, in that we would not have to inform all of our club contacts of name & address changes.

* If you are a regular member, and you wish to show your affiliation with our club, you can have almost anything you want, although everyone to date has chosen their call as in n9wbw@w9ccu.org.

Again, there are more choices... These can be setup both as a Forwarding Alias, or as a true Email Destination Mailbox.

* Forwarding Alias - This would be used when you already have an email account, that you check on a regular basis. This new email address would be one you could give out when working on behalf of the club. When used, all email received, would be forwarded to your personal email account you already use.

* Email Destination Mailbox - This would be a true email account that would need to be checked periodically. We have 1mb mailbox size available. With this email account, as in n9wbw@w9ccu.org, you can both receive and send email from this account. This could also be ideal for people who do not have computers, or have chosen not to do business with an ISP (Internet Service Provider) such as AOL, Comcast, SBCYahoo, to name only a very few. In this option, all that could be needed is a trip to a computer of a friend/club member, or a trip to almost any public library, and your email would be waiting for you.

Feel free to contact me, Tom Negele, n9wbw. My information is correct in the roster or via email tom-negele@hotmail.com.



Activities on the HF Bands

by:
Peter Barr
W9UF

Simon, MØBOX is planning a trip to The Maldives and will be active from there as 8Q7BO from the Kuredu Island Resort (AS-Ø18), April 7-20th. Activity will be during his spare time on all bands 40-10 meters, the WARC bands included. Simon will concentrate on the digital modes, mainly PSK31 plus RTTY and maybe SSTV if requested, and of course SSB. He will NOT be accepting SKED requests before activation. However, he hopes to be able to connect to the DX Cluster network and announce his operating frequency and mode. QSL via his home callsign. Further information and updates can be found at: www.btinternet.com/~m0box/.

An international team of operators are planning to put together a November 2006 Libya DXpedition which will include an entry in the CQ World Wide CW DX Contest. Activity will be on all bands with CW and SSB, and for the first time ever, digital modes on RTTY, SSTV and PSK plus another first will be FM. They will use the callsign 5A7A. Their plan is to be active from November 14-28th. The team will be located at the Mediterranean coast just outside Tripoli the capital city. Direct QSL request are via DL9USA. Bureau cards will be answered only after all direct requests are processed. More information is available on their Web page at: <http://5a7a.gmxhome.de>

Well known German DXer's Baldur Drobica, DJ6SI and DJ9ZB, Franz Langner, plan to team up again to operate from the Congo later this year, sometime in the October to November time frame. They are currently waiting for Brazzaville to approve their licenses. Baldur is renewing his TN6X license and Franz has applied for TNØZ. This will be a 10-160 meter operation with activity on CW and SSB. In addition, Franz plans to do some of the digital modes. The two are also looking for pre-DXpedition funding for this one. If you are able to help with support please contact Franz via email to flangner@t-online.de. QSL cards will go via their home calls.

Aves Island, YXØ, is expected on the air April 19th. This will be a joint operation of the Association of Radioamateurs of Venezuela, ARV, and the Grupo DX Caracas, GDXC. Their trip begins April 17th. When they arrive and get set up they will use the callsign YXØA on 160-2M CW and SSB, emphasizing lower bands. Look for them on or near 1.822.5, 3.523, 7.023, 10.103, 14.023, 18.073, 21.023, 24.893 and 28.023 CW - and on phone, 1.842.5, 3.750, 7.093, 14.190, 18.145, 21.295, 24.987 and 28475. The under-construction web site is <http://www.yv0.info/>.

Orlando, PY2TJ/PT2OP, will be active as ZVØF between March 30th and April 4th from Fernando de Noronha. His activity will be limited because he will be on vacation. He states, "The Fernando de Noronha Archipelago is an ecological paradise in where I will be on vacation with my wife. I intend to operate every night after 2200z, and eventually, during the day time hours, SSB, on the bands of 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters, depending on the propagation conditions and the possibilities of installing the antennas." His equipment will be an Icom 706MKII, Kenwood TS-50 and half-wave dipole antennas. QSL via PT2OP. He will accept QSLs by the bureau, but prefers direct (with SASE/SAE + 2 IRCs or 2 USDs) at: Orlando Perez Filho, SHIGS 706 - Bloco L - Casa 22, 70350-762, Brasilia - DF, BRAZIL.

Operators Juma, A71EM and Ali, A71BX (and possibly other Qatari stations) will activate a special event station for two months with the callsign A72ØØ6 (Alfa Seventy Two Oscar Oscar Six) from June 1st to July 31st. Activity is to celebrate preparation for the 2006 Asian Games to be held in Doha. Activity will be on all modes

and bands. QSL via EA7FTR.

IOTA

AS-115. Berkin, TA3J, will be active as TA3J/Ø from Antalya - Sican Adasi (Rat Island) for the first time ever between April 1-22nd (in good weather conditions). Activity will be on 160/80/40/20/15/10/2 meters and the WARC bands on all modes. QSL via Nilay, TA3YJ, direct (only SASE and 1 IRC, no green stamps please) or by the bureau. QSL Manager is: Nilay Mine AYDOGMUS, P.O. Box 876, 35214 Izmir - TURKEY. Visit the following Web page for more details and pictures of island at: <http://www.geocities.com/ta3j0/1.html>

EU- Ø47. Look for Radio Club DLØRU/LH and Dieter, DJ8DS/LH to activate Juist Island (N-Ø3 for the German Islands Award) and the Memmertfeuer lighthouse (GLHA #69, ARLHS FED-121, WLH DL-Ø12) on April 29-30th. Activity will be on 40/30/20/15 meters SSB and PSK-31. QSL via their home callsigns, direct or through the bureau.

EU-Ø88. Ole, OZ2TF, Jan, OZ5JR, Klaus, OZ7KDJ and Poul, OZ9V will be active as OZ8MW/p from Anholt Island (NK-ØØ1 for the Danish Islands Award) between July 27th and August 1st. Activity will on 80/40/20/15/10 meters CW/SSB and include the IOTA Contest. QSL via their home callsigns, direct or by the bureau.

EU-113. Operators Theodoros/SV1GRM, Sotirios/SV1HER and Dimitris/SV1EDZ will be active as SV1GRM/8 from Kythira Island (MIA MG-062) and the Spathi lighthouse (ARLHS GRE-120, WLH SV-084, WOLTA LH-1703) from May 26-28th. Activity will be on CW/SSB on 160/80/40/20/17/30/2 meters. QSL via SV1GRM, bureau preferred.

EU-171. Look for Ela/DL1TM and Tor/DJ4MG to be active as homecall/p from Insel Vendsyssel-Thy/Nordjylland Island (NJ-001 for the Danish Islands Award, WW Loc. JO47VK) between April 16th and May 4th. Activity will be on 160/80/40/20/15 meters SSB and 20 meters PSK-31. They will also be active on 2 meters SSB. QSL via their home callsigns.

NA- Ø26. John, NY6DX, will be operating from Staten Island, from March 24-26th. Activity will be on, or near the usual IOTA frequencies. QSL via his home callsign, direct only.

NA- Ø31. John, NY6DX, will be operating as NY6DX/1 from Block Island Washington County, Rhode Island, from April 11-14th. Look for activity on, or near the usual IOTA frequencies. QSL via his home callsign, direct only

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

ON THE WEB

The ARRL announced in March that Users of the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/> now may apply their LoTW credits to applications for the League's Worked All States (WAS) award. Once registered and logged in, users may set up a WAS account on the Logbook Awards page, configuring the account to automatically select QSLs to use or selecting them manually via the Your QSOs page. LoTW is a repository of logbook records submitted by users from around the world. When both participants in a contact submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is an electronic "QSL" that can be used for award credit. As part of this addition, administration and maintenance of all WAS awards is now performed using a LoTW module. US Amateur Radio licensees must be ARRL members to apply for the WAS award. In addition to WAS, LoTW supports the ARRL DX Century Club (DXCC) award. Since its inauguration in September 2005, LoTW has more than 95 million QSO records on file, with nearly 5.15 million QSL records

resulting. The system boasts just over 12,000 registered users, and there are more than 18,100 certificates--each representing a particular user call sign--on file."

What may be the first written recount of the 3YØX Peter I operation is an article by co-leader Ralph Fedor, KØIR, appearing in the just-released edition of the TCDXA Gray Line, which may be viewed at <http://www.tcdxa.org/March2006GrayLine.pdf>. This edition also reveals plans by WØGJ for his upcoming VU4 operation. Peter I statistics are available at <http://www.peterone.com/stats.htm>. Todd, KKØDX says there are "all kinds of statistics."

The CQ Magazine DX Marathon is a cross between an award and a contest; and runs for a full year at a time with competitors trying to contact as many countries and CQ zones as possible within the year. There are no carryovers from year to year and everyone starts fresh each New Year's Day. The year-long DXing competition began on January 1. A new Web site has been established and dedicated to the DX Marathon - <http://www.dxmarathon.com> You will also find the complete CQ Countries list (varies from DXCC) in various formats.

DXCC NEWS

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 1- 2 13ØØz-2300Z, Moscow, PA. Northeast Pennsylvania Special Event Club, KV3T. Three Mile Island Incident observed. 21.240 14.240 14.045 7.240. QSL. David M. Samsell, W3LOW, 923 Clearview Rd, Moscow, PA 18444. www.kv3t.tripod.com/.

April 7-8, 18ØØz-24ØØz, Tulsa, OK. Tulsa Health Department Amateur Radio Club, K5THD. Celebrating "World Health Day 2006." 21.365 18.155 14.265 7.265 SSTV and PSK31. Certificate. Dave Cox, Tulsa Health Department ARC, 5051 S 129th E Ave, Tulsa, OK 74134. www.tulsa-health.org/k5thd.

April 7- 9, 13ØØz-21ØØz, Venice, FL. Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, K4S. Annual Venice Sharks Tooth Festival. 21.313 18.153 14.272 7.233. QSL. Jack Sproat, W4JS, 1419 E Manasota Beach Rd, Englewood, FL 34223. tamiamiarc.tripod.com.

April 8, 14ØØz-22ØØz, Hawthorne, NJ. Bergen Amateur Radio Association, K2BAR. Earth Day Celebration. 28.350 21.300 14.300 possible APRS IRLP. Certificate. Fred Buchner, 202 Tenth Ave, Hawthorne, NJ 07506. www.bara.org.

April 8-9, ØØØØz-2359z, Mesquite, TX. HAM Association of Mesquite, WJ5J. 49th Annual Mesquite Rodeo. 18.129 14.235 7.229 3.929. QSL or Certificate. HAM Association of Mesquite, PO Box 851835, Mesquite, TX 75185. www.mesquiteham.org.

April 8-9, ØØØØz-2359z, San Angelo, TX. AB5BG. 64th Anniversary of the infamous Bataan Death March. 10 15 20 40 m. Certificate. Don Goff, AB5BG, 1210 Ardmore, San Angelo, TX 76905.

April 9-15, 133Øz-21ØØz, Indian Orchard, MA. Titanic Historical Society, W1MGY. 94th Anniversary of the Titanic voyage. 14.260 14.033 7.260 7.033. QSL. Titanic Historical Society QSL, PO Box 51053, 208 Main St, Indian Orchard, MA 01151-0053. www.hcra.org/titanic.htm.

April 9-15, 17ØØz-24ØØz, Cape Canaveral, FL. Titusville and North Brevard Amateur Radio Clubs, N4S. 25th Silver Anniversary of America's First Space Shuttle Launch, from Kennedy Space Center. 21.350 18.150 14.250 7.250. Certificate. Carl Zelich, AA4MI, 1720 Old River Tr, Chuluota, FL 32766-8603. www.northbrevardradioclub.org.

April 14-15, 14ØØz-2ØØØz, Lynden, WA. Mt Baker Amateur Radio Club, K7SKW. Whatcom County Youth Fair. 14.242 14.071. QSL. Rodger Alexander, KK7LK, 3404 Illinois Ln, Bellingham, WA 98226.

www.qsl.net/k7skw.

April 16-30, 0000z-2359Z, Elmhurst, IL. York Radio Club, W9Y. York Radio Club's 70th Anniversary. 14.250 7.260 7.040 3.925 442.875 147.42. Certificate or QSL. Gehl Entwhistle, KB9DVC, 370 N West Ave, Elmhurst, IL 60126. www.yorkradioclub.com.

April 21-22, 1400z-2400z, Rock Island, IL. Green River and Quad City Historical Radio Societies, W9RI. 150th Anniversary of the 1st Mississippi River railroad bridge. 21.350 14.250 7.250 7.050. Certificate. W9RI, 2519 29th Ave, Rock Island, IL 61201. www.forret.org/grvars/.

April 21-22, 1700z-0200z, Rupert, ID. Snake River Chapter of the Idaho Society of Radio, W7R. Rupert Idaho Centennial Celebration. 147.00 449.20 7.185 SO-51. QSL. Mike Johnson, WA7NRP, SRCISRA, PO Box 833, Burley, ID 83318. <http://srcisra.info/>.

April 22, 1400z-0200z, Deadwood, TX. Panola County Amateur Radio Club, N5OW. Republic of Texas International Boundary Marker. 14.265 3.915 7.246. Certificate. PCARC, 380 CR 1241, Gary, TX 75643.

April 22, 1600z-2200z, Norman, OK. South Canadian Amateur Radio Society, W5NOR. 89er Day Festival, commemorating the Great Land Run of 1889. 14.289. QSL. SCARS, PO Box 720993, Norman, OK 73072. <http://w5nor.org>.

Apr 22, 1300Z-2000Z, Rocky Point, NY. Radio Central Amateur Radio Club, W2RC/IMD. International Marconi Day. 14.270 14.050 7.270 7.030. QSL. Radio Central Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 396, Centereach, NY 11720. www.rcarc.org.

April 22-23, 1300z-1600z, Morgantown, WV. Morgantown Airport, Civil Air Patrol & Aviation Explorer Post 747, W8V. CAP Aviation and Technology "27 Hour" Day, youth oriented event. Phone only 145.430 28.350 14.250 7.250 VHF simplex 146.460 aircraft at 10,560 ft and APRS weather balloon launch. QSL or Certificate. Civil Air Patrol -- Aviation Explorers, Morgantown Municipal Airport, 225 Hart Field Rd, Morgantown, WV 26505. <http://AvDays.org>.

April 22-23, 1600z-2400z, Piscataway, NJ. Piscataway Amateur Radio Club, K2VOA. Former Voice of America relay station WBOU. 28.370 21.370 14.270 7.270. Certificate. Bill Toth, 6 Rivercrest Dr, Piscataway, NJ 08854. www.homestead.com/k2voa/.

April 29, 1400z-2300z, Paris, TN. Henry County Radio Society, KE4HC. Celebrating the 53rd Annual World's Biggest Fish Fry. 14.240 7.240. Certificate. Barry Sandefer, W4WYD, 4715 Guthrie Rd, Paris, TN 38242.

April 29, 1700z-0000z, Tarentum, PA. Skyview Radio Society, K3MJW. 38th Anniversary of Allegheny-Kiski Historical Society. 146.640 14.260 7.240. QSL. Robert Bastone, 308 Garden Hill Dr, Tarentum, PA 15084. www.skyviewradio.net.

April 29-30, 1400z-2200z, Manitowoc, WI. USS Cobia Radio Club/ManCoRad Radio Club, N9BQV. WW II Submarine USS Cobia AGSS-245 on the air. 14.243 14.070 7.243 7.080. QSL. Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, 4932 S 10th St, Manitowoc, WI 54220. www.qsl.net/w9dk.

April 29-30, 1500z-0500z, Jacksonville, TX. Cherokee County Amateur Radio Club, K5JVL. 5th Annual Drakes on the Lake at Lake Jacksonville. 21.375 14.275 7.275 3.875. Certificate. Cherokee County ARC, c/o Brad Low, K5BDL, 840 Henderson St, Jacksonville, TX 75766.

April 30, 1200z-1700z, Mt Clemens, MI. Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association, W8A. March of Dimes Walk America. 21.250 14.250 7.250. Certificate. USECA, PO Box 46331, Mt Clemens, MI 48046. www.useca.net.

April 30, 1200z-2400z, Oklahoma City, OK. Oklahoma City Autopatch Association, W5MEL. Sixth Annual OKC Murrah Building Bombing Memorial Marathon. 14.319 7.269 3.919. QSL. AE5MH, 3200 Del Rey Dr, Midwest City, OK 73110. www.qsl.net/ocapa.

Hams in the Senta area of Serbia are marking the 500th anniversary of their city using "500" callsigns through the end of the year. The YU7JDE radio club will be using the callsign YU500JDE and the contest call

YZ500A. 4N7CC, Caslav, will sign as 4N500CC. Tibi, 4N7ZZ will use the call 4N5000ZZ and Robert, YU7BW will be using YU500BW.

Members from the radio club station RK3DZB at the Cosmonauts Training Center (QTH - Zvyozdny Gorodok "Star-City") will activate the special callsign R45G from 0600z, on April 10th until April 16th. Activity is to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the first flight of a person in space. The Russian Cosmonaut Jury Alekseevich Gagarin on the spacecraft, "Vostok-1", made the first historical mankind flight into space on April 12th, 1961, orbiting the earth for 108 minutes. Club members plan to be active on CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31, MFSK16 and SSTV on the HF bands. The equipment to be used includes an IC-756 ProII (2 piece), FT-990, ACOM-2000A and TL-922A. Information on the operating frequencies will be spread via the DX Clusters - watch for spots from RK3DZB. QSL direct only via RW6HS to: Vasil M. Kasyanenko, P.O. Box "0", Novopavlovsk, Stavropolsky kr., 357300, Russia. NO QSLs via the Bureau.

Certificates and QSL cards: To obtain a certificate from any of the special-event stations offering them, send your QSO information along with a 9x12 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
1500z	April 1	SP (Poland)		
1500z	April 2	DX Contest	160-10	CW/SSB
1400z	April 1	Kids		
1400z	April 2	Roundup www.ki3ds.com	80-70cm	SSB/FM
1900z	April 1	QCWA		
1900z	April 2	QSO Party www.qcwa.org	160-70cm	CW/SSB
1600z	April 1	EA (Spain)		
1600z	April 2	RTTY Contest www.ure.es	80-10	RTTY
1400z	April 5	YLRL DX to NA		
0200z	April 7	YL Contest www.ylrl.org	160-10	CW
0700z	April 8	Japan Int'l		
1300z	April 9	DX Contest http://je1cka.jzap.com/j1dx/	80-10	CW
1400z	April 12	YLRL DX to NA		
0200z	April 14	YL Contest	160-10	SSB

www.ylrl.org

ØØØØz	April 15	Holyland		
2359z	April 15	DX Contest	160-10	CW/SSB
		www.iarc.org		
ØØØØz	April 15	TARA		
2359z	April 15	Skirmish	160-10	All Digital
		www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_rules.html		
13ØØz	April 29	Helvetia		
13ØØz	April 30	DX Contest	160-10	CW/SSB
		www.uska.ch		

DX STRAYS

Mark your calendars to look for Tom, WW5L w3ho will be QRV as C91TA from Mozambique from the end of June through the first two weeks of July.

Two Italians, Raffaele,IV3NVB and Roberto,IV3SRD are on the air now through August 3rd as YU8/home call, from Kosovo. QSL to their home call signs.

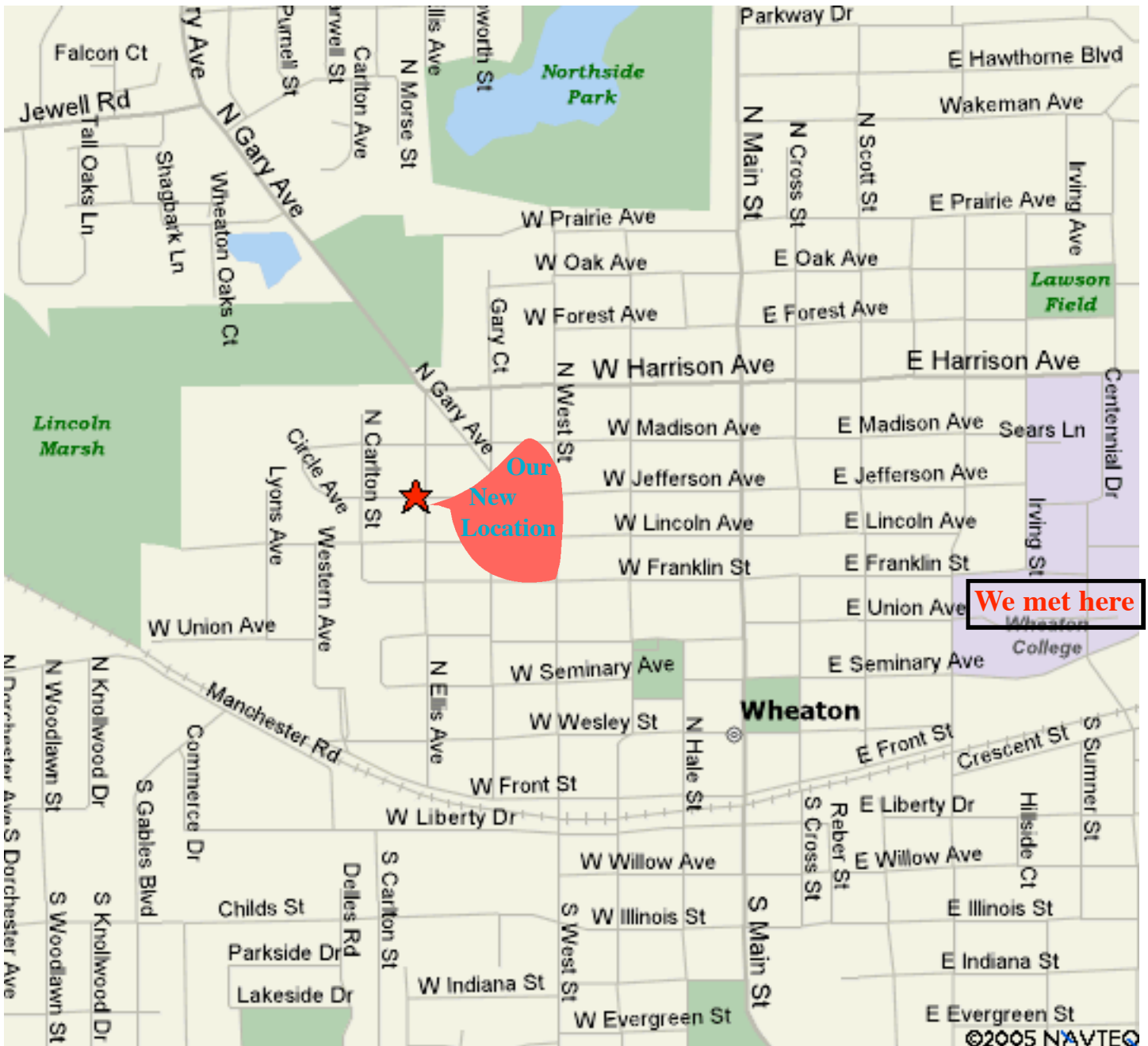
Andy, PJ4/W9NJY of Wauwatosa, WI will be QRV from Bonaire April 1-11. He plans to operate mostly on CW, 40-10M, with a little SSB and digital. QSL via WD9DZV.

Luc, ON7KEC, will be active as 9Q/ON7KEC from Democratic Republic of Congo during a business trip in early April through late July. Activity will be limited to his spare time. QSL via his home call sign.

Bob Schenck, N2OO the QSL Manager for the recent Peter I DXpedition 3YØX, has announced that he has IRCs for sale. All current large sized IRCs are \$1.30 USD each with a minimum quantity of 20 for \$26.00 (PayPal accepted to account: n2oo@arrl.net). Checks should be payable to "ROBERT W. SCHENCK". Bob states, "I have a friend handling these orders in order to keep your IRC order separate from the large volume of 3YØX QSL mail that I am receiving at this time." Please mail your check payable to "Robert W. Schenck" to: Robert Tomkovich - K2RET, 405 Hemlock Drive, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734. You can E-mail Bob directly with any questions at: n2oo@arrl.net

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

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(-).

The following article is one club member's opinion about the need for a club vehicle. An opposing view will appear in next month's Hamletter.

Does WCRA need a Vehicle?

John Cheney N9MWF

The answer to that question depends upon how you interperate the concept of NEED.

While it is true that WCRA, or any organization, could perform Public Service or Emergency Communications events without a vehicle, having one enhances the club's capabilities.

Without a vehicle to serve as a central repository for equipment additional time and effort must be expended to gather the required items from a variety of storage locations.

To illustrate this point it took me almost an hour to gather the equipment I used for the talk-in station at the Hamfest. I knew where everything was, but some items were in the shack, some in a storage area in the basement and others in the garage. Then I had to load them in the van. Imagine if the equipment was stored at 2, 3 or 4 locations.

I'll need to go through this again for each Public Service event I participate in. And that does not begin to count the time to assemble the equipment used for Field Day.

Currently the Club Owned equipment is stored at various members homes or businesses and multiple individuals must coordinate the assemble and transport of the equipment. This is very labor intensive. Having the equipment preloaded in a single location would greatly reduce this effort.

Having a vehicle also provides an enhanced public image of the organization. Operating from a Club Owned vehicle at public events such as a Walk-a-Thon or parade shows the public that the organization is committed to this aspect of the hobby.

If the question were rephrased to SHOULD WCRA have a vehicle, I would answer with a resounding YES. WCRA has a long tradition of having a Communications Vehicle equipped to support the clubs mission of Public Service and Emergency Communications. I, for one, strongly support continuing this tradition with a vehicle which reflects the professional manner in which we approach Public Service.

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

ARNIS
JOHN
ANNE
MARTY
DON

K9OQN
WA9YZL
WM9L
N9NTM
N9NYX

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
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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: _____

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 4th: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 6th: Club Brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursdays 10:30 AM Carol's Garden, Carol Stream.
- 7th: 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 April 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.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for April Remember we are doing a limited printed edition. **Please be prompt.**
- 27th: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting -April 7th, 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:

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
eMail: donlin@xnet.com

First Class Mail

