



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

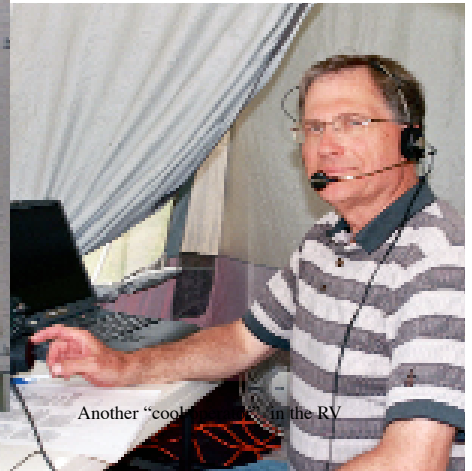
Issue 517

Founded 1948

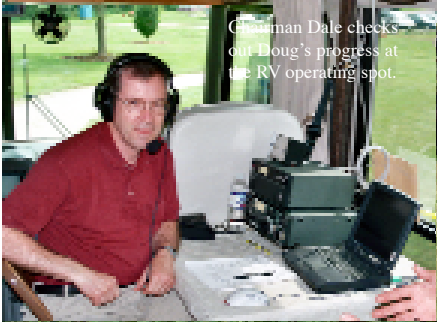
July 2006



Don Drake stands guard over the ATV Demo Setup



Another "cool" station in the RV



Chairman Dale checks out Doug's progress at the RV operating spot.

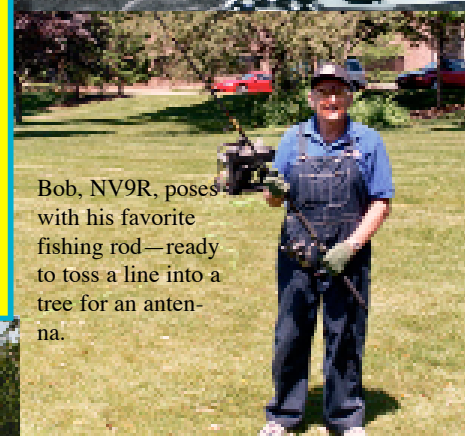


KA3HSW with his satellite antenna, waiting for the "next pass"



Peter and Dale operating from this station

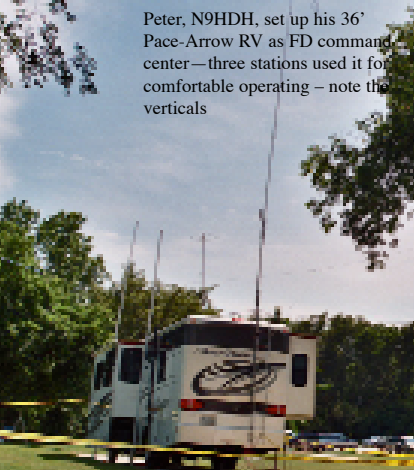
FIELD DAY 2006 AT PANFISH PARK IN GLEN ELLYN



Bob, NV9R, poses with his favorite fishing rod—ready to toss a line into a tree for an antenna.



Pictures and captions courtesy of Jim, W9DHC



Peter, N9HDH, set up his 36' Pace-Arrow RV as FD command center—three stations used it for comfortable operating—note the verticals



Peter, N9HDH, set up his 36' Pace-Arrow RV as FD command center—three stations used it for comfortable operating—note the verticals

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Don ,	N9NYX
Vice President	Bruce ,	K9OZ
Secretary	Todd ,	KC9HKN
Treasurer	Ken ,	N9HQ
Custodian	Bob ,	KC9HOP

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
Hamfest	John ,	WT9Y
Refreshments	Bruce ,	K9OZ
Membership	Mary ,	K9GAL
Public Service	Joe ,	N9WRO
VHF/HF Awards	John ,	N9MWF
Webmaster	Tom ,	N9WBW

Amateur License Staff

Training Classes	Jack ,	KA9HEL
Volunteer Exam.	Harry ,	K9HK

WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

Chairman		
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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Features	Jim ,	W9DHX
HAMLETTER	eMail: hamletter@w9ccu.org	
This publication uses QuarkXPress 6.5 and Photoshop 7.01		



From the President's Gavel

by Don, N9NYX WCRA President

Well here we are enjoying the beginning of the 4th of July weekend in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. Field Day has come and gone and preliminary reports indicate that those of you who participated had an enjoyable experience. Dale, NJ9E is to be commended for his efforts.

By the time you receive this the annual 4th of July parade special event will also be history. I am hoping that will go well also. If you are not participating in the club's special events and would like to get involved, contact Joe, N9WRO, and he will get you started on an exciting time of helping others with their events by using Ham Radio.

Bruce has given me to publish a list of the programs for our meetings for the rest of 2006. As many of you know, we are trying an experiment whereby the program is held first and then after fat pills are served by our executive chef at the intermission we have a short business meeting. As I have mentioned in the meetings I do not come to enjoy the business meeting but it is a necessary evil so will we attempt to make friends with it.

As Hamletter Editor I am still looking for someone or someones that would like to contribute articles like 'Shack of the Month' and a club history or some related type of article. If any of you closet authors are interested in participating, please contact me and we can discuss things. We must remember that this is like all clubs, it is a volunteer organization and the pay is very low but you get out of this what you put in to it. Plus you would then get away from my boring drivel all the time. Let me hear from you!

Over the past couple of years our masthead has

lost several committee chairs and we have not been able to entice enough volunteers to step up to the plate and help out. I am once again appealing to you that if you have some spare time and are so inclined, the club membership would greatly appreciate the help.

Until next time keep the white side up.

Don, N9NYX

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr
KC9HKN
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Minutes for June 2, 2006

President, **Don N9NYX** called the meeting to order at 1930. Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by **Janie AE9JG**, **Mark W9UZ** seconded, and the motion passed.

President, Don N9NYX reminded everyone of the change to our club meetings, that the business meeting will follow the scheduled program from now on. He also let everyone know that all are wel-

come on any of the weekly club nets and that the club might want to look at restructuring the way our nets are presented. Vice President, **Bruce K9OZ** informed everyone that tonight's program will be about Field Day. Also the club picnic will be the first Friday in August at Blackwell Forest Preserve. A club roster will be available at the next meeting. Custodian, **Bob KC9HOP** informed everyone that the Field Day storage locker needs to be moved from storage. Secretary, **Todd KC9HKN** nothing to report. Treasurer, **Ken N9HQ** was not present, but report was given by President, Don N9NYX

Field Day, **Dale NJ9E** said that Field Day will be at Panfish Park in Glen Ellyn. Approximately \$800.00 is needed for a generator and bathroom facilities. He also said that we need people for antenna set up and tear down. The club will either operate as a 3A or 4A this year.

VE Program, Janie AE9JG reported that two upgraded to Extra, and one new Technician class at the last VE test session. The club holds VE test sessions on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Helen M. Plum Memorial Library in Lombard.

Membership, Bruce K9OZ was asked about how many members are in the club, of which there are about 80 at this time.

Motion to accept the reports by **Tom N9WBW**, **Steve N9OA** seconded, and the motion passed.

Announcements, **Marty N9NTM** informed everyone that he has tickets for the Fox River Radio League hamfest in July.

Old Business, RAB **Doug W9NJM** reported that the parts for the 220 repeater are due in next week and the repeater is still down until parts are replaced. **Kurt KB9RTO** asked about the status of the 2 meter repeater going back up on the College of DuPage tower. President Don N9NYX said that a letter was sent to the college and that no response was given to the club at this time.

New Business, Kurt KB9RTO will have more information about vests for public events that would provide for club visibility at the next meeting. Janie AE9JG asked about if the club will have the Show and Tell program at the October club meeting. Vice President Bruce K9OZ said there will be more on this program at the next club meetings.

anchors, **Peter N9HDW** informed everyone that **Peter KB9ZUM** has some computers for sale. **Jim W9DHY** had a Heathkit SWR bridge and power meter available.

Marty N9NTM motioned to adjourn, Steve N9OA seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2130.

JULY QST – GLOWING WITH PROPOGATION NEWS AND HANDY TIPS FOR EAGER DXERS

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

WELCOME SUN SPOT CYCLE 24

You've heard that line before, "The bands are going to get better...." Joe Luetzelschwab, K9LA, has the real answers, complete with graph, on page 46 of this month's issue. If you think you can get help by picking the "hot" bands, Joe's article will give you some tips.

RADIO BEACONS TO HELP YOUR QSO SUCCESS RATE

If you have ignored the used of beacons to help improve your awakening the bands, this article will tell you how to take advantage of U.S. and foreign beacons. The author of the two page article (pages 44-45) is an Arkansas computer programmer and has had considerable success in the DX business. He shares his secrets and QST Editor Steve Ford adds his scholarly comments, as well.

ANTENNA BUILDERS' DELIGHT – PLANS FOR A 432 MHz LOOP

You construction folks will enjoy (even if you don't build it) the plans for an efficient antenna made from "hardware store" parts. The author even gives the parts numbers from the Lowe's Hardware chain! Pages 28-31 give detailed photos and assembly instructions.

"ROVER RECOGNITION AWARD" TO N6TEB

If you'd like to see a picture of a big SUV rigged for "roving" to achieve "mountain top to mountain top" contacts, take a look at page 21. You'll see the honored one, David Glenn, with his microwave antenna system, microphone in one hand, and log sheet in the other.

MYSTERIES OF THE QSL SERVICE EXPLAINED

Ever wonder how the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service works? Page 20 tells all about it, and shows a picture of the sorting drawers where the system starts. They have a website spot—www.arrl.org/qsout.html.

DAYTON—ITALIAN STYLE

They call it the National Radio Operators Fair—ARRL sent a representative (DXCC Manager Bill Moore) and he was photographed for page 13 with ARI President Luigi Belvederi, I4AWX.

CALENDARS AND HAMFEST NEWS

Look in the "back of the book" (pages 88 to 105) for news of what's going on in the ham community; from contest results, announcements of events—QST wants to help you keep tuned in for enjoying your hobby in Chicagoland, or where you're going to visit this summer.

WCRA MEETING PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR BALANCE OF 2006

July meeting

The July meeting will be "A dumb guy's guide to computer logging and control of radios." It's being presented by Bruce, K9OZ, and will focus on simple, FREE programs that anyone can use for logging or to control modern radios. Use that computer in your shack for more than surfing the Internet.

The presenter is not a heavy-duty computer guy, so he promises to keep this a radio-related program, not a computer program.

August meeting

Last year we reinstated the club picnic for the August meeting, and it was a big success. Plans are to repeat it this year, the first Friday in August. We have reserved the north shelter at the Blackwell Forest Preserve from 5:30 to 9 p.m. The club will provide a simple meal, members are encouraged to bring a desert, XYL, harmonics, etc.

Last year we had a fox hunt during the picnic, and plans are to repeat that activity this year. If you're not interested in fox hunting, there's plenty of time to sit and rag chew.

September

The September will meeting will have a program on ATV, Amateur Television, presented by Jim, W9DHX, and Peter, N9HDW.

October

October will be Show and Tell, always a popular meeting. Bring you most interesting items, get up and give us a five-minute spiel or story behind them.

November

November will be and annual Auction

December

The December meeting will be a Holiday get together. It's held on our regular meeting night, the first Friday. We get together, share deserts, and sit and enjoy the fellowship. Again, bring the family.

This is an email article I received from one of our former club members John, W4FID, and I thought you would enjoy it as I did. ED.

I have operated most field days since college in the mid 60s. Been in tents, vans, motor homes, campers, a shed, a cottage, and even under the stars. Seen as hot as 102 and as cold as the upper 30s. Had rain, sun, wind, even the tail end of a tornado once. Used a long extension cord from someone's house, generators, cars, even solar a little. Ran a KW, mostly barefoot, and QRP a couple times. Pretty much I've been there, done that, and came home dirty but happy.

But now I'm retired and life is simpler. The local radio club has really nice members but also older and our days of climbing trees or erecting towers for antennas are behind us. Someone having a heart attack or stroke would spoil it for the group. Plus it's hot in north central Florida and there is a limit to how sweaty we can get and still be welcomed home by our XYLs. Also this time of the year we usually have intense thunderstorms every afternoon and operating or refueling the generator can be scary in them. Tampa, near here, is often called "the lightning capital of the world". Not arguing with that.

So about a week ago I got philosophical and started thinking "What's field day about?" I came up with four



basics. First to have fun -- ham radio is a hobby. Second to test/demonstrate our ability to move to a temporary location, set up, and operate -- our organizational and logistical skills. Third to test our equipment and operating skills -- can we work people and pass traffic beyond the horizon or repeater's coverage area? Last, but not least, it's a BIG contest -- the most and the best ham radio has to offer get it on this weekend. So this year I decided to go on my own and see if I could accomplish some of the above.

I drove my Explorer to a public beach on the Gulf of Mexico about 25 miles from my home QTH. Parked within 100 feet of the water. Picture No.2 shows the GPS with us at Crystal River, FL and the IC-706-MkII ready to go. Did the advance planning needed. Full tank of gas, paper and pens, home made dupe sheets, home made log sheets, collection of single band mobile whips (picture No. 3 shows the 20 meter whip), and a small cooler with lunch and something to drink. Then for the frosting on the cake I took my 40 and 20 meter QRP rigs, a small tuner, and a portable dipole system. All pre packed in made for the occasion nylon bags (actually a rifle case for the tripod + antenna and a pistol range bag for the gear + gel cells reassigned to ham duty). Plan "B" if the HF car station crashed or the weather got below 90 and I wanted more to do. Neither happened. Enlisted my new XYL (married last fall) as a logger and dupe sheet checker. From beginning to teach the XYL about phonetics and logging, loading the car, driving to the beach, to on the air was less than an hour.

So how did it go? First we had fun. Wife even said it was fun and she will do it again. So I'll check that box off as done. Second we got there in an hour and didn't forget anything. Had more gear than I needed/used and brought a little food/drink home. So I'll check that box off as done. Third I "boxed" and "painted" the country. All four corners (WA, FL, New England, CA). East to west (PA, OR). North to south (MN and Quebec to South TX). Hit the mid section of the country well (CO, MO, IA, IL, IN, WI, MI, OH). Even worked a few "rare" ones (UT, NH, RI, VT, NM). Worked some on the first call. Had some call me. No doubt the gear and I can still get the job done. So I'll check that box off as done. Fourth about the contest part. I was on the air a total of an hour and a half (no point in stretching the XYL's feelings) and had a couple dozen QSOs . So three boxes checked off out of the four seems good to me.

The local club will do something independently when it's cooler in the fall. Maybe my travel trailer? Maybe my QRP and portable dipole system? Maybe we'll go completely crazy and throw a longwire in a tree? But for now I remember why I've been a ham over 45 years it's fun and interesting and useful. Lord willing I'll do it again next year.

73

John W4FID

Calling all authors, here is an empty space that would like to see YOU fill it with an article.

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF JULY

JOHN	N9MWF
CAROL	N6YL
BILL	K9WH
DAVID	W9AOK
DALE	NJ9E

*YOU TOO COULD
ADVERTIZE AN
ANCHOR HERE*

JULY 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. Talk-in on .39 will give everyone directions to the church and also where our meeting room is inside the church. Program will be "A dumb guy's guide to computer logging and control of radios." It's being presented by Bruce, K9OZ, and will focus on simple, FREE programs that anyone can use for logging or to control modern radios. Use that computer in your shack for more than surfing the Internet.
- 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 -July 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

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First Class Mail

