



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 523

Founded 1948

February 2007



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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Photos	Larry ,	KA9KDC
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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

I want to thank all of you who came out to make our Hamfest a success and very enjoyable for all those that attended. I think John, NT9Y, told me that we sold more tables than last year and had more people in attendance. Thanks again for helping to make the Hamfest and our principal money raiser for the year such a good time. But we will have to figure out how John, N9MWF, manages to win prizes at our Hamfest year in and year out.

As the note says in the bottom left corner of this page, 2007 Dues are now being accepted by Ken, N9HQ, as our treasurer.

In April we will be voting on a new vice president and treasurer. Bruce, K9OZ, has said he will not be running for re-election so we need to have someone step forward and fill that position. The Vice President is responsible for the programs we have each month. Bruce has gotten some really interesting programs this past couple of years and I want to thank him for his efforts.

Speaking of elections, the board is looking for a few good people to serve on the nominating committee. If you have an interest in this area please contact a member of the executive board.

We have two interesting things to discuss in the business portion of this Friday's meeting. The Club has been approached by the Wheaton Historical Museum to put on a demonstration of Ham Radio. Secondly we have been approached by another club to see if we would want to help put on a short - 2 hour -demo of what we would do in an emergency here in our area. Come out this Friday for Show & Tell.

Don

Dues for 2007 are now due and payable. The deadline for paying your dues is April 1st.

See page 6 for application.

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr
KC9HKN
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2006

President, **Don N9NYX** called the meeting to order at 1930. Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by Don N9NYX, **Bob W9BK** seconded, and the motion passed.

President, Don N9NYX opened the meeting with introductions.

Vice President, **Bruce K9OZ** informed membership of next months program will be the annual "show

and tell". Bruce K9OZ asked the membership to bring something interesting that is amateur radio related.

Custodian, Bob W9BK reported that the club storage locker needs attention. Bob W9BK would like to have the membership help clean and reorganize the storage unit when the weather gets a little warmer.

Treasurer, **Ken N9HQ** report was not given.

Secretary, Todd KC9HKN report was not given. Thanks to Bob W9BK for taking minutes for the meeting.

RAB, **Doug W9NJM** reported that the club 2M machine was still being moved to the College of Du Page. Doug W9NJM informed everyone that the club 220 machine is still off the air at this time and the club 440 machine was also being moved in the future.

Hamletter, Don N9NYX asked the membership to let him know if you are not receiving the Hamletter.

Web Page, **Tom N9WBW** reported that the Club Web Site w9ccu.org would be down on January 6 for a short period of time.

Public Service, **Joe N9WRO** reported that he will have information on events for 2007 when they are made available to him.

Hamfest, **JohnWT9Y** reported on the WCRA 2007 Hamfest. John WT9Y told the membership present that volunteers were still needed and he provided sign up sheets for those interested. John WT9Y said that 87 tables had already been reserved and more should come in the next couple of weeks. The hours for the Hamfest have not changed and Pheasant Run will be providing parking attendants this year to control traffic and parking.

Motion to accept reports by Don N9NYX, BobW9BK seconded, and the motion passed.

Don N9NYX motioned to adjourn, Bob W9BK seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2035.

Should have sent this sooner and since I do not have everyone on the committee's email pass it on.

It is absolutely amazing how every year at Wheaton Hamfest time there is this group of loyal Wheaton Community Radio Club members who appear, as if by magic, out of the snow and sleet and cold, or whatever weather we are dealt, to provide the impetus to start the fest; to help those who are selling bring in their wares; smile saying "how can I help you"; and set the stage for another successful WCRA MidWinter Hamfest. These guys and gals are AMAZING! They did it again this year. I would list their call signs for all to see but if you were there, you KNOW who they are. If you do not know who they are, mark that weekend down for 2008 and come on out and watch the MAGIC in action first hand.

I write this with the greatest respect to those who do this year after year and, fortunately, bring some new members each year to augment their services.

Attached is what makes it work.

73

Bill Holister

FEBRUARY QST --"END OF AN ERA"

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

FCC DROPS MORSE TESTING REQUIREMENT

For some, the removal of the "code" requirement is a disaster; for others, it opens a door to one of the most fascinating communication techniques in the spectrum. Rick Lindquist, N1RL, reports in detail on page 79. The FCC had the official line--"This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden..." Testing for licenses will continue, but there will be no code requirements. A "Q&A" page (80) will give you the answers to common questions, such as "Do I have to pass a Morse Code test to use CW on the air?" The answer is "No. Any Amateur Radio licensee who wishes may use Morse code on the amateur frequencies they're authorized to use -- except the USB-only channels at 5MHz."

MORSE MAY BE "OUT", BUT K6BBQ'S XYL DOESN'T KNOW IT!

Rem O'Donnelley, K6BBQ, has a wife who has been listening in to his CW signals in the shack. Page 20 has a reproduction of a Valentine he received from his wife with the message in Morse Code. Check out the sentiment in dots and dashes!

RAISE YOUR HAND FOR THE 2007 ARRL TEACHERS INSTITUTE

If we have any teachers among us--here's your opportunity for a four day, in-residence learning opportunity designed for motivated teachers and other school staff. Three sites and four dates are set for 2007--the details are on pages 41 and 42. Three hours of graduate level college credit can be achieved through an agreement with Fresno Pacific University--sounds like an interesting way to pursue your hobby and your education at the same time!

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE THROUGH "FAIRS"

"FAIRS" stands for "Foundation for Amateur International Radio Service", whose motto is "Building Global Friendships". Since 1992 the organization has been creating goodwill through training, equipment, exchange visits and other forms of assistance. The details are reported by David and Gaynell Larsen on page 49, including photos of activity in the eastern Caribbean Island of Dominica.

WORKING 160 WITHOUT AN ACRE OF LAND FOR A LONG WIRE

Don Boudreau, W5FKK, will show you how to do just that in his fully illustrated four page article on pages 52 to 55. He uses an inverted-L antenna, and de-bunks the myth that 160 is a out-of-date band from the spark-gap and vacuum-tube era. Of course his PhD in Physics might have helped him a bit. He works Europe on 160 from his Louisiana QTH.

WANT TO GO "BLUE TOOTH" WITH YOUR TRANSCEIVER- READ PAGE 66-69

Follow Lynn Hansen's directions and you'll be keeping up with the other "techies" who want to use an interface with their radio gear. A project for those winter evenings!

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

BRUCE

K9OZ

JOHN

W4FID

RICHARD

K9MGX

If you do not see your birthday listed here in your birth month, please contact the editor with your information.

Maybe you saw this vehicle last Sunday morning at the Hamfest. I wonder whether he could fit one or two more antennas and radios in and on his car.

Photos by Doug, W9NJM



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Membership Application

P.O. Box QSL, Wheaton, Illinois 60189

Dues

Full Member \$26
Student/Senior Citizen \$13
Associate (No License) \$13
Club Badge \$7

Family Memberships Available

Office Use Only

Year Amt Paid
Check Cash
New Renew
Membership Type Full Associate

Student Sr Citizen

Family:

Full member call sign:

Name on Badge.....

Name _____ Call Sign _____
License Class _____ Expiration Date _____
Address _____ Apartment # _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone: Home (_____) _____ Business (_____) _____
EMAIL Address _____

ARRL Member Yes OR No
(Please Circle One)

Sponsor (new members only) _____

WHAT CLUB EVENTS WILL YOU VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES FOR?

Please circle those which you might be interested in working or serving as a Committee Member

HAMFEST (January) **FIELD DAY (June)** **VE TESTING** **JULY 4TH PARADE**
PICNIC (July) **CHRISTMAS PARTY** **TRAINING** **MEMBER RETENTION**
ASSISTANCE (Elmer) **BIKE-A-THON** **PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS**

OTHER: _____

COMMENTS

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st: Club Brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursdays 10:30 AM at Peppercorns. Peppercorns is located at the corner of President and Geneva Road in the shopping center on the North side of Geneva. All are welcome.
- 2nd: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39 Program for February will be Show & Tell followed by a short business meeting.
- 6th: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for March.
- 22nd: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm. Go to the club VE Testing website at vetesting.harrykamer.com for the latest details.

Remember the Club net on 2M is held every Sunday evening at 8 PM local. Followed by the 220 net at 8:30 PM local. Tuesday at 8 PM local on 2M is the ARES net followed by the Club 440 net at 8:30 PM local.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting -February 2nd, 2007, 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

