



HAMLETTER

Issue 344 Published by the WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS, INC. September 1991



Bill Coons, KD9I, and both of his Ercoupes at the airshow. Bill wore two hats at the show: Aircraft exhibitor and communicator.



Chef William, KA9ZHM, tells picnic chairman Steve, KE9VY, "Ya know, I joined this club to cook."

Thinking about putting up a new or used tower?

The following article appeared in the infohams digest in response to a question regarding taking down and putting up a used tower. It contains some words of wisdom. Submitted by Wayne, KB6CSP.

Joe,
Used towers are extremely dangerous to work with unless you know exactly what you are doing. Rohn and other tower manufacturers strongly recommend the use of professional tower personnel in dealing with them as well as erecting new towers. The reason used towers are available "standing" at a good price is that the cost of disassembling a tower properly and safely is often a substantial portion of the cost of a new tower. The cost of a new tower is only 40-50% of the total cost if it is erected properly! I have a friend that had a 5KW wind driven generator atop a 80 foot Rohn tower - it was struck by lightning fusing the generator. He wanted to get rid of it and thought the tower might be worth something. The generator weighs over a ton thus requiring a crane to take it down (cost minimum \$250 to get the crane to the site, another \$250 maybe to get the generator and tower on the ground). Then, after spending this much money, the tower sections could be welded together by the lightning strike requiring a cutting torch to separate them. What is

...continued on page 5

In this issue . . .

<i>From My Shack</i>	2
<i>Meeting Minutes</i>	3
<i>anchors</i>	5
<i>HF Rigs</i>	6
<i>Foxhunt Schedule</i>	7
<i>Picnic Pix</i>	8
<i>Calendar</i>	9

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Don ,	N9NYX
Vice President	Bruce ,	K9OZ
Secretary	Todd ,	KC9HKN
Treasurer	Ken ,	N9HQ
Custodian	Bob ,	W9BK

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	Doug ,	W9NJM
Secretary	George ,	KA3HSW
Member	Rich ,	N9DKO
Member	Larry ,	KA9KDC

WCRA Radio Nets

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

WCRA Repeaters

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

HAMLETTER

Editor	Don ,	N9NYX
Photos	Larry ,	KA9KDC
Features	Peter ,	W9UF
Features	Jim ,	W9DHX
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 am going to put on my HamLetter editor hat to begin with this month. I have dug into the archives and came up with a 1991 cover of the Hamletter to show the current membership what and who was involved. I am going to look back each month and try to give you an interesting page from the past. I would be interested in your comments.

Several important items are just ahead of us on the horizon. We have club elections at the April meeting. The two positions that are open this year are the Vice-President and the Treasurer. Ken, N9HQ, has agreed to run for another term as Treasurer. Bruce, K9OZ, would like to take some time off after being Hamfest Chairman and Vice-President. This gives all of you that would like to run for club office a chance to get involved. Please contact an officer or a member of the nominating committee.

Some club members have expressed an interest in finishing the discussion on the need for the club to have some kind of vehicle/trailer to be used by the club. We will begin the discussion this Friday. I would like to see an article representing both sides of the argument on the club acquiring a vehicle/trailer in the April or May issue of the Hamletter followed by a vote of the membership on what you as members would like to do.

Not to keep sounding like a broken record yearly dues are now due. There is a club application near the end of this HamLetter which you may print and fill out and bring to Friday's meeting. We must be paid up by April in order to vote at the April meeting.

See you Friday,

Don

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

See page 8 for application.

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr
KC9HKN
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2007

President, **Don N9NYX** called the meeting to order at 1930. Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by **Joe N9WRO**, **Steve N9OA** seconded, and the motion passed.

President, Don N9NYX opened the meeting with introductions.

Vice President, **Bruce K9OZ** started off the evening's program of "Show and Tell". Many members had brought interesting amateur radio items to share. **John N9MWF** completed the evening program with a power point demonstration of the Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications System. Thanks to John N9MWF for a very interesting presentation. Next months program will be on the Remote Control of the Home Shack.

Custodian, **Bob W9BK** had nothing new to report.

Treasurer, **Ken N9HQ** reported that the club balance in checking was \$20,583, money market fund \$11,057 for a total of \$31,640.

Secretary, **Todd KC9HKN** read off a list of the volunteers that supported the WCRA 2007 Hamfest. We had 31 attend the February meeting.

Hamfest, **John WT9Y** reported on another successful WCRA 2007 Hamfest. We had new vendors, more tables were sold, and an increase in ticket sales. We made an estimated total of \$15,000, after expenses \$4,600. Thanks to **Peter N9HDW** and **Jim W9DHX** for the Amateur Television setup and **Dale NJ9E** for running the GOTO station. John WT9Y thanked all that supported the WCRA 2007 Hamfest this year.

RAB, **Larry KA9KDC** the club 220 machine is still off the air due to the parts still need to be installed. **Rich N9DKO** was voted into the RAB by the board.

Hamletter, Don N9NYX asked everyone that if you're not getting the monthly Hamletter please verify your email address with him.

Public Service, **Joe N9WRO** reported that we will need volunteers on April 22, for the Special Olympics from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. On May 6, for the MS Walk-a-Thon from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM. If you are interested in helping out please let Joe N9WRO know.

Membership, the club voted into membership **Randolph KC9KDR**. A very big welcome goes out to Randolph KC9KDR from the WCRA membership. A reminder to everyone the regular 2007 membership dues are due at this time.

VE Program, **Janie AE9JG** reported that we had 26 attend the WCRA 2007 Hamfest VE session.

Motion to accept reports by **Tom N9WBW**, **Jim W9DHX** seconded, and the motion passed.

Minutes continued from page 3

Old Business, **Janie AE9JG** asked on the status of the club 2M machine going back up at the College of Du Page. Don N9NYX said that the club 2M machine is still going back up at the college.

Joe N9WRO asked about the status of the club vehicle. Don N9NYX reported that this is still an open issue and asked the membership to move the discussion to the March meeting. This was agreed to by the membership present.

Peter N9HDW asked for support for the 2007 Scout Camperall located at the Sandwich Fairgrounds from May 4-6. We would demonstrate amateur radio at the event. Peter N9HDW needed someone to attend a contact meeting on February 26. If someone could do this please contact him.

New Business, Don N9NYX informed the membership present that the club Vice-President and Treasurer Positions will be coming up for election.

Bruce K9OZ said there is some planning going on for all the Du Page county amateur clubs to have a simple emergency drill. More information will follow.

Rich N9DKO informed the membership that the Wheaton Historical Museum has asked if the WCRA would be interested in setting up an Amateur Radio demonstration at the museum. Rich N9DKO asked for anyone who could co-chair this event with him. John WT9Y said he would co-chair.

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

WCRA 2007 Hamfest Volunteers

John WT9Y, Hamfest Chairman

Don N9NYX
Tom N9WBW
Bob W9BK
Bill K9WH
Wayne KF9JC
Marty N9NTM
Bruce KA0DSF
Bob NV9R
Larry KA9KDC
Carol KB9FYL
Kelsey KC9CUQ
Samantha KC9CZP
Meghan
Peter N9HDW
Doug W9NJM
Kurt KB9RTO

Steve N9OA
Mary KC9IJO
Bill N9BT
Victor AJ9M
Bruce K9OZ
Paul KA9RVS
George NE9ET
Janie AE9JG
Don K9MVF
Harry K9HK
George N9GWR
Joe N9WRO
Ken N9HQ
John N9NA
Pat K9JAU
John N9MWF
Marty KA9RCC

Jim W9DHX
Jack KA9HEL
Don WB9VFC
RichardK9MGX
John WA9YZL
Todd KC9HKN

Thanks for all your support for another successful WCRA Hamfest.

MARCH QST FEATURES SECTION ON “NEWCOMERS TO BAND”

by Jim Ward, W9DHX

SPECIAL INSERT DESIGNED FOR BAND CHANGE RULES

If you are a newcomer, or just someone confused by the new rules as of Feb. 23rd, get the March issue and pull out the insert after page 48. It has been perforated for easy removal, and takes care of all your questions on the new ruling on use of HF bands by newcomers. The fourth page of the insert charts all the bands for easy reference.

WELCOME A NEW “J-POLE TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE SCENE

Long a reliable way to have antenna punch in relative portability, the J-pole for true portability and effectiveness has been designed by Edison Fong, WB6IQN. He tells the story of the antenna from history to construction, and includes clear to understand illustrations. Grab your spare 300 ohm twin-lead and a bit of coax with a connector, and you'll be on the air with a great radiating pattern (also diagrammed in the article).

40 METER HF LOOP DESIGNED FOR THE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE

Don't be satisfied with an ordinary whip, when you can rig your Trailer or Motor Home for a “tilt-up” compact HF loop. John Portune, W6NBC, fixed up his RF Trailer with a dandy loop that blends into the camp-ground scenery and gets terrific results. He gives you detailed reasons why it works and also shows you how to put it together in his article on pages 41 through 43. You can also put it on a pickup truck!

GET “CLEAN AUDIO” WITH A SHOWER HEAD MIKE

Yes, when you are singing in the shower, the shower head could be mistaken for a mike! Calvin Jackson, AC5HM, makes a great case for turning a shower head and a few parts into a great home-made mike. Step-by-step instructions show you how to do it. It is on pages 52-54.

“HINTS AND KINKS” - FULL OF IDEAS TO CLEAN UP YOUR MOBILE SHACK

Buddy Walker, AC5ZQ, is a contributor this month of using old sport drink bottles filled with plaster to anchor mobile equipment. The bottle fits into the drink holder recesses in your car's console area. Other ideas abound for keeping things under control in the “shack in the car.”

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION VEHICLES (ECV'S) ON DISPLAY

Since we had a Power Point review of the local Emergency Trailer Vehicle at the last Club meeting, the article on page 74 showing the Red Cross of Central Oklahoma's version of an ECV. Exterior and interior shots are impressive. The discussion copy also poses many issues involved. This one bears a similarity to the Red Cross unit that was at the January Ham Fest!

Larry, WA9RTE, writes one the “10 best” Stories in My Best Eyeball QSO Contest

Editor's Note: In November 2006, QST Editors dreamed up a “150 words or less” contest for readers to write a true story of their most memorable eyeball QSO (in person meeting) with another ham. As always, the judges had a difficult time in selecting the 10 best entries, but Glen Ellyn ham and WCRA member Larry Oldfield came up with a great 150 words and a photo of local musician Tasker Day. The complete story and photo, as well as the other nine winners, are on pages 47 and 48 of this months(March) QST.

The copy is below:

ALL-NIGHTERS WITH ‘QBB

In July 1975 I heard the late Tasker Day, W9QBB, talking on 146.76, a popular Chicago repeater. Tasker and I became very good friends, and I learned that he was the first violinist of the Wayne King Orchestra, which was playing at one of the suburban shopping centers. He and the band were staying at a downtown motel. Many times over the years he ended up going back to the apartment where my wife and I lived and stayed up most of the night talking about his life. He would talk about the days when he played in Las Vegas and his friendship with Howard Hughes and flying with Mr. Hughes at the wee hours of the morning in an airplane with some starlets, including Betty Grable on one occasion. He also claimed to have invented the inverted “V” antenna.

E. Lawrence (Larry) Oldfield, WA9RTE, Glen Ellyn, Illinois

ALL-NIGHTERS WITH 'QBB

◆ In July 1975 I heard the late Tasker Day, W9QBB, talking on 146.76, a popular Chicago repeater. Tasker and I became very good friends, and I learned that he was the first violinist of the Wayne King Orchestra, which was playing at one of the suburban shopping centers. He and the band were staying at a downtown hotel. Many times over the years he ended up going back to the



apartment where my wife and I lived and stayed up most of the night talking about his life. He would talk about the days when he played in Las Vegas and his friendship with Howard Hughes and flying with Mr Hughes at the wee hours of the morning in an airplane with some starlets, including Betty Grable on one occasion. He also claimed to have invented the inverted “V” antenna.

E. Lawrence (Larry) Oldfield, WA9RTE, Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Scanned in from the
March 2007 QST

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF MARCH

KURT	KB9RTO
DONALD	WB9VFC
JOHN	K0QLS
JON	KA9EPK
BOB	W9BK
MIKE	N9KYG
BOB	W9TIE
BRUCE	KA0DSF

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

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: _____

MARCH 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 March will be Computers and Radios 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 April.
- 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 -March 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:

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

P.O. Box QSL

Wheaton, Illinois 60189

eMail: donlin@xnet.com

First Class Mail

