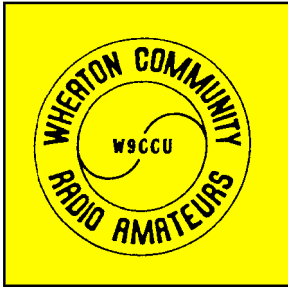


HAMLETTER

Published Monthly
 Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
 Issue 528 Founded 1948 July 2007



FIELD DAY 2007 AT PAN FISH PARK



ATV DEMO
 D 2007
 2.4 GIG



COMPONENTS
 MicroCamera/Xmitter
 On Baseball Cap
 "Toothpick Antenna"
 MicroReceiver has
 Tiny "Mast" antenna
 Power -9v. battery
 Feeding a Display
 CD Player



WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Don ,	N9NYX
Vice President	Peter ,	KB9KZO
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 Award	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

July 4th and Field Day have come and gone. For your humble el presidente, I am in the recovery stage after having back surgery on June 14th. The surgery has slowed me down more than I like to admit but I have been able to keep up on things by listening to the repeaters. I am planning on being at the meeting this coming Friday evening and I hope many of you are planning on attending.

Speaking of repeaters, Doug, W9NJM, has delivered the 220 machine to Roberto, WA9E, for re-installation on his tower. Hopefully by the time you are reading this, the 220 machine will be back up on the air.

If all goes according to plan and the creek don't rise I am going to try and shoe horn in the results of Field Day that Bruce, K9OZ, forwarded to me. It is a long form so I may use a little smaller print font so as not to take up a large number of pages.

Thanks to Dale, NJ9E, and his staff for putting on another very successful Field Day this year. Also thanks to Jim, W9DHX, Hal, AC3Q, Ken, N9HQ, Bruce, K9OZ, and many others for sending pictures from the soggy Field Day site.

As you can see from the masthead to the left of this article, the club has several opening that we could use volunteers to step forward and fill. If you are so inclined, would you let a board member know.

I have mentioned the nets the clubs runs on various nights of the week before. It seems that the participation in our club nets continues to decline with each passing week. I am not sure whether this is because of the time the nets come on, i.e., competing

with TV or what. Also we have a declining number of Net Control Stations. Whatever seems to be that cause, we as a club need to examine if and how we as a club want to proceed or continue these nets. I would ask that you give this some thought and please come prepared to make suggestions and or volunteer as a NCS operator.

Until Friday,

Don

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr
KC9HKN
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Meeting Minutes for June 1, 2007

President, **Don N9NYX** called the meeting to order at 1930. Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by **Charlie WB9SGD**, **Peter N9HDW** seconded, and the motion passed.

President, Don N9NYX opened the meeting with introductions. The WCRA 2007 Club Roster was made avail-

able to those members present.

Vice President, **Peter KB9KZO** started the night's program, Filed Day. Field Day captains were selected; a generator for power was worked out for the weekend also.

Custodian, **Bob W9BK** asked for help on getting out what the club needed for Field Day from storage.

Treasurer, **Ken N9HQ**, report was given by Don N9NYX checking balance \$5,114.87, money market \$25,135.34.

Secretary, **Todd KC9HKN** we had 21 attend the June meeting.

Hamfest, **John WT9Y** reported there are still some Hamfest bills due for 2007.

RAB, **Doug W9NJM** reported that the club 220 is still down and might be up the following week and the club 440 is still has some issues that are being worked on. **Larry KA9KDC** reported that the IRLP is back up.

Hamletter, Don N9NYX if you're not receiving the hamletter please update your email address with the club.

Public Service, Don N9NYX there is a need for someone to fill this open position

Field Day, **Dale NJ9E** informed the club we will be using Pan Fish Park in Glen Ellyn this year.

Membership, **Harold C. Dennin AC3Q** rejoined the club. The club membership welcomes him back.

Motion to accept reports by **Steve N9OA**, Dale NJ9E seconded, and the motion passed.

Old Business, **Mark W9UZ** discussed the WCRA club vehicle purchase. Mark W9UZ told the membership that a club trailer had been picked out from American Hauler and more information would follow on its status at the next club meeting. Mark W9UZ said that he was forming a trip to go to the trailer manufacturer to see their facility and that anyone was welcome to come along.

Bruce K90Z and **John N9JZX** talked to the membership present on the joint Emergency Exercise between WCRA, W9DUP, and W9PCS some time in August to September this year.

New Business, Motion to request funds for Field Day of \$600.00 by Steve N9OA , Dale NJ9E seconded and the motion was approved by the membership present.

Minutes continued from page 3

Steve N9OA motioned to adjourn, **Jim W9DHX** seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2030.



AN UPDATE ON THE JOINT EMERGENCY EXERCISE BETWEEN WCRA, W9DUP, and W9PCS

Three clubs preparing DuPage County Amateur Radio Preparedness Test

Three clubs in the DuPage County -- the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs, DuPage Amateur Radio Club, and York Radio Club -- are planning a joint emergency preparedness test for September. The details of the test are still being worked out, but here's a rough idea of current plans.

The exercise will begin at a predetermined time, probably a Saturday morning in late September. Each club will initiate a SET roll call and net on its repeater. After each club's repeater net, each club will operate a simplex net on a predetermined frequency.

Following the simplex net, participants will be asked to check in on a HF net, on either 3905 or 7230.

Each club will have a control station, either at a special location or a member's home. The control station should be operating off of emergency power.

Club members will be able to participate from their home stations or mobile stations. There will not be assigned locations for individual amateurs.

The entire exercise should take less than two hours, and will give all participants a better understanding of the capabilities of county repeaters, simplex operation and HF operation within the county.

These plans are still in development. A second organizational meeting is being held in July, and final details will be nailed down then.

Bruce Plantz, K9OZ

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/qslout.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.

A QRP Field Day

Bruce, K9OZ

This year I decided to try something different for the 40 meter CW station in Field Day – run off batteries and keep the power down to 5 watts.

Why torture yourself with QRP you might ask. Actually, running low power solves a lot of issues. Instead of messing with power supplies, power strips and extension cords, I got by with the internal 5 amp-hour battery in my Elecraft K2, two 7 amp-hour sealed lead acid batteries, and a 12 amp-hour power source of the type you find in auto parts stores to jump start cars.

I honestly didn't know how well my setup would work, and saw this year as a learning experience. I might run out of power after a few hours and I'd be done, or I might run for hours. As I was setting up, my power leads to the battery broke. I was able to twist it all together and hold it together with electrical tape. I couldn't pull that off at 100 watts.

The result – I never even dipped into the third battery to power my radio. I did run the larger battery pack down that I was using to power my laptop computer. I discovered that power consumption for my logging computer was higher than the power consumption for my radio.

I made 200 contacts operating about 10 hours of the exercise. I worked nearly everyone I heard, and spanned from Maine to Arizona. I could have made more contacts at 100 watts, but not that many more in that time span.

There is an added bonus. In a normal Field Day, you work somebody and it's ho-hum, another contact. When you work them with 5 watts, and do it over and over again, there's a real sense of accomplishment.

At about noon on Sunday I was down to 10 minutes left on my battery on my laptop and I had 190 contacts. My goal was to get 200. There were a couple people in the tent talking and watching me, and somehow, magically, I made those last 10 contacts in the last 10 minutes of my battery life.

I'm hooked. Next year I'll be out there with my KX1 and some tiny laptop with low power consumption.

A LONG TIME MEMBER OF WCRA RECENTLY BECAME A SILENT KEY: MARC MOSS W9KAN. MARC WAS ACTIVE IN THE VEC CLASSES HELD AT COD AND HELPED MANY CURRENT MEMBERS GET THEIR TICKET. MARC WILL BE MISSED AND THE PRAYERS OF WCRA GO OUT TO HIS WIFE AND FAMILY ON HIS DEATH.

Update on Communication Trailer

by Wayne Kiser

Work continues on the WCRA communications trailer, but it will not be ready for the Glendale Heights parade—at least not this year. Many good intentions have come to fruition, and others rest in the wings.

The Generator is up and running.

We have acquired the 15K generator for the trailer. “The new generator was used for Field Day this year and it performed very well,” says Dale (NJ9E). “The large gas tank is going to be useful. When it arrived on site, there was about a half tank of fuel. Hal (AC3Q) and I filled two-seven gallon fuel cans on Saturday morning. By 10:00 PM Saturday night, these had been put in the generator’s fuel tank. We filled the fuel cans again that night. When we shut down on Sunday, they had not been used and there was still nearly half a tank left in the generator. It appears this generator will be a very efficient in fuel usage.”

“The engine speed remained constant under the load and the sound was not very noticeable throughout the Field Day site,” continues Dale. “There was a consistent hum of the engine with no sputter with load changes. When standing next to the generator, the noise seems to be less than the sound created on the old truck generator. It’s a very heavy unit, but it was easy to roll on the ground in spite of the weight. The new trailer will have long ramp without a steep incline and should be no problem for one person to load or unload the generator.

Trailer manufacturer selected

According to John (N9MWF), American Hauler, located in Elkhart, IN, has been selected to build the trailer. A preliminary layout of the trailer has been forwarded to the manufacturer for formal prints. Components for the interior, include new work surfaces and storage cabinets. WCRA members have gotten involved, too. The base cabinets and a marine quality ratchet antenna mount with a 6db VHF antenna have been donated.

“The details of the roof antenna system are being developed” says John. “This will allow us maximum flexibility for mounting the various permanent VHF and UHF antennas, and other antenna mounting options are under consideration.”

The project is moving ahead very smoothly. There are a lot of additional ideas for improving the operating positions. They will be implemented as funding becomes available. Anyone who would like to be involved in the process or would like to donate funds or equipment to the

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF JULY



JOHN	N9MWF
CAROL	N6YL
BILL	K9WH
DAVID	W9AOK
DALE	NJ9E
RICHARD	KB9IDU

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

Update on Communication Trailer (Continued from page 7)

project can contact any member of the Trailer Project Group. Make checks payable to WCRA Trailer Fund.

We hope to have photos of a trailer similar to ours for the next Hamletter.

2007 Field Day Summary Sheet

Please write legibly. Make certain you have filled out this form completely and have enclosed any required dupe sheets, photographs and bonus claims.

Entries must be postmarked By July 24, 2007 and mailed to:

Field Day Entries
ARRL
225 Main St.
Newington, CT 06111 USA

1. Field Day Call Used _W9CCU GOTA Station Call _____

2. Club or Group name (Class A or F only) _Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

3. Number of Participants 20

4. Number of Transmitters in Simultaneous Operation 6

5. Entry Class: Check only one.

- A. Club or non-club group portable
- B. 1 or 2 person non-club Group portable
List call of 2nd operator: _____
- C. Mobile
- D. Home station commercial power
- E. Home station emergency power
- F. EOC Station

6. Power Source: Check all that apply

- Generator
- Commercial mains
- Battery
- Solar
- Other (list) _____

7. ARRL / RAC Section IL

8. Total CW QSOs 641 x 2 = Total CW QSO points 1282

9. Total Digital QSOs _____ x 2 = Total Digital QSO points _____

10. Total Phone QSOs 484 x 1 = Total Phone QSO points 484

11. Total QSO Points 1766

12. Power Multiplier (select only one)

- 5 Watts or less and Battery powered = 5
- 150 Watts or less = 2
- Over 150 Watts = 1
(transfer to line 13)

13. Power Multiplier 2

14. Claimed Score 3532
(line 11 x line 13)
(excluding bonus points)

15. Bonus points claimed: Please check each block as appropriate and include required proof of points with your submission. All bonus points will be verified at ARRL HQ and added to your score.

- 100% Emergency power (Max. 20 transmitters)
- Media Publicity
- Set-up in Public Place
- Information Booth
- NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC
- WIAW Field Day Message
- Formal NTS messages handled (# _____)
- Satellite QSO completed
- Natural power QSOs completed
- Site Visit by invited elected official
- Site Visit by invited served agency official
- Youth Element achieved
- GOTA Bonus (total bonus points: _____)
- Submitted using the b4h.net.applet
- Non-Traditional Demonstration modes (list each):

- A. ATV _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

Total Bonus Points Claimed: 1000

16. Check here if Summary was submitted via the web applet at: www.b4h.net/cabforms

17. I/We have observed all competition rules as well as all relations for amateur radio in my/our country. My/Our report is correct and true to the best of my/our knowledge. I/We agree to be bound by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee.

Date: _____

Call: _____

Signature: _____
(signature/call of club president or authorized club representative)

Address: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

You must complete the Band/Mode and GOTA QSO breakdown box below.

Field Day Call Used: _W9CCU

		CW		Digital		Phone			
		QSO	Power	QSO	Power	QSO	Power		
160 M									
80 M	218	100		83	100				
40 M		200	5			176	100		
20 M		220	100			175	100		
15 M									
10 M		3	100						
6 M							28		
2 M									
1.25									
Other									
Other									
Satellite						122	100		
GOTA									
Totals	641					484			
	Enter on	Enter on	Enter on						
	Line 8 of	Line 9 of	Line 10						
	Summary	Summary	Summary						

19. GOTA BONUS: List names/calls of GOTA operators, number of QSOs

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 3rd: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- 5th: 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.
- 13th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39 Program will be TBA.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for July.
- 26th: 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 July 13th, 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

