



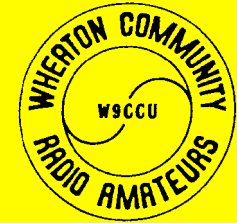
HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

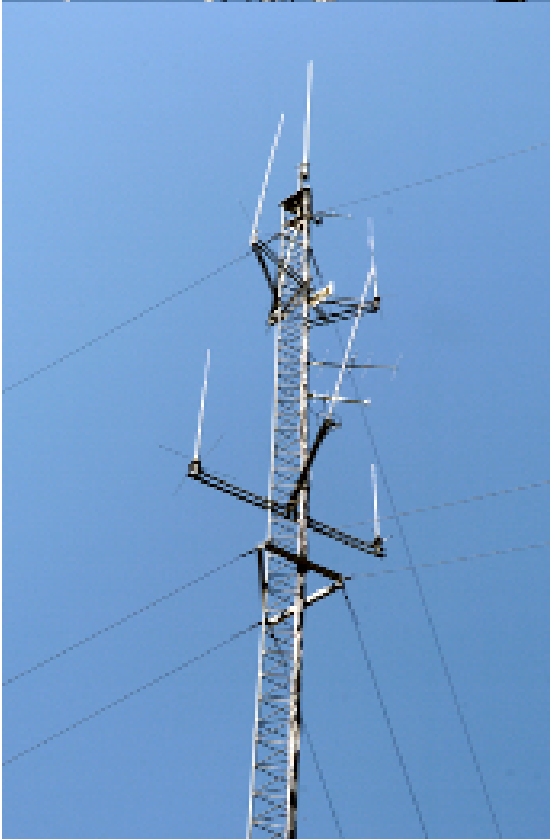
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 529

Founded 1948 September 2007



Slightly Bent 2M Antenna



WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON AUGUST 23RD IN THE AREA OF OUR 2M REPEATER HOME ATOP LARRY'S, KA9KDC, TOWER

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHICAGO IL 747 PM CDT FRI AUG 24 2007

...STORM SURVEYS CONDUCTED ACROSS PORTIONS OF DEKALB...DUPAGE AND COOK COUNTIES...

...STRAIGHT LINE WIND DAMAGE FOUND ACROSS DUPAGE AND COOK COUNTIES...

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS CAUSED EXTENSIVE WIND DAMAGE ACROSS PORTIONS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS THURSDAY AFTERNOON. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE STORM SURVEY TEAMS EXAMINED WIND DAMAGE IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS ACROSS DEKALB...DUPAGE AND COOK COUNTIES ON FRIDAY.

ACROSS DUPAGE AND PORTIONS OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL COOK COUNTIES...A NEARLY CONTINUOUS SWATH OF WIND DAMAGE WAS NOTED. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE OCCURRED ALONG A PATH WHICH BEGAN IN FAR WESTERN DUPAGE COUNTY NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF ROOSEVELT ROAD AND WASHINGTON STREET IN WEST CHICAGO...AND CONTINUED EAST-THROUGH THE NORTHERN PORTIONS OF LOMBARD AND GLEN ELLYN...INTO NORTHLAKE...THEN ACROSS THE NORTH SIDE OF CHICAGO TO THE LAKE MICHIGAN SHORE NEAR MONTROSE HARBOR. ALONG THIS PATH...WIND DAMAGE WAS CONSISTENT WITH WINDS IN THE 60 TO 80 MPH RANGE. HOWEVER...THERE WERE POCKETS OF WIND DAMAGE SUGGESTIVE OF WINDS IN THE 80 TO 100 MPH RANGE INCLUDING THE 4200 BLOCK OF NORTH ASHLAND AND ACROSS NORTHERN GLEN ELLYN SOUTH OF GENEVA ROAD. THE WIND DAMAGE WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF MILE WIDE ALONG THIS PATH. A SEPARATE AREA OF WIND DAMAGE SUGGESTIVE OF WINDS OF 80 TO 100 MPH WAS FOUND IN THE 4000 BLOCK OF NORTH SHERIDAN IN THE WRIGLEYVILLE AREA WITH EXTENSIVE TREE DAMAGE AND SEVERAL UPROOTED TREES IN THIS AREA. MUCH OF THE DAMAGE APPEARS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH STRAIGHT LINE WINDS...WITH NO SIGNS OF SUSTAINED OR ORGANIZED CIRCULATION OVER THE MAJORITY OF THE DAMAGE PATH.

...EF1 TORNADO DAMAGE FOUND IN WESTERN DUPAGE COUNTY...

Continued on PAGE 4

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	Peter ,	KB9KZO
Membership	Mary ,	K9GAL
Public Service		
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

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

Editor	Don ,	N9NYX
Photos	Larry ,	KA9KDC
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

We have had an eventful several weeks around here. The most memorable was the tornado that swept across a part of Northern Wheaton on the afternoon of August 23rd. As you can see from the pictures on page 1 & 4 there was considerable damage to trees and power lines. I consider myself fortunate in that we lost power in our part of Wheaton for about 27 hours. Larry, KA9KDC, did not get power restored until Sunday evening and ran the club's 2m machine using a generator. Keeping ahead of the flood water from overflowing or inoperative sump pumps also resulted in many areas of the Chicagoland area lining their parkways with carpet and carpet pads.

Several of our sister clubs around us had weather nets up and running. WCRA has gotten away from this practice for one reason or another. Maybe now would be a good time to revisit this practice and see if we can get the club back in the action. Comments from all would be welcomed by the board or the RAB. This will take more volunteers and someone that is willing to plug the entire network together. Anyone interested?

The new club trailer seems to be coming along nicely. There are pictures and an article from the factory visit elsewhere in this HamLetter.

I want to thank John, JT9Y, for all the hard work that he put into making the August picnic a very nice outing and a great success. The food was excellent including home made fatpills and there were a few new faces to meet and greet. For those that missed this years edition of the WCRA picnic don't miss next year's.

We still need a volunteer to step up and take over the Public Service position after Joe , N9WRO, stepped down. There are other positions that are vacant as well. If you feel that desire to help out your fellow human being, please contact one of the board members.

Peter, KB9KZO, has put together a program on packet this Friday for those of us that have some packet gear gathering dust in the closet.

See you Friday evening.

Don
N9NYX

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr
KC9HKN
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Meeting Minutes for July 13, 2007

President, **Don N9NYX** called the meeting to order at 1930. Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by **Tom N9WBW**, Charlie WB9SGD seconded, and the motion passed.

President, Don N9NYX opened the meeting with introductions.

Vice President, **Peter KB9KZO** was not present. **Bruce K9OZ**

gave the evening's program on contesting. Bruce K9OZ presented a power point presentation featuring Fred Luan K3ZO. For more information you can visit this web site PVRC.org. Thanks to Bruce K9OZ for a nice program.

Custodian, **Bob W9BK** had no new items to report. Treasurer, **Ken N9HQ**, report was given by Don N9NYX. Secretary, **Todd KC9HKN** we had 25 attend the July meeting. Hamfest, **JohnWT9Y** reported that contracts will be signed soon with Pheasant Run.

RAB, **Rich N9DKO** informed the membership of possible alternate locations such as the Wheaton Police city tower for getting the club 2M repeater back up if the College of Du Page location does not work out. **Larry KA9KDC** reported that the club 220 is back on the air, and the RAB is working on the club digital repeater to make it more useable. The RAB also held their monthly meeting.

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. **John N9MWF** thanked everyone who came out and supported the Wheaton 4th of July parade and we also were thanked by the Wheaton Jaycees. The club will be supporting the Glendale Heights parade on August 25 with a start time of 1:30 PM.

Field Day, **Dale NJ9E** informed the club we had another great field day. The total cost was \$443.40, which was \$6.60 under what had been budgeted for the event. The new club generator worked out very well and was found to be very fuel efficient. **Bob NV9R** thanked those present on a great field day also.

Web Page Tom N9WBW had nothing new to report. Bruce K9OZ reported that W9CCU.org has been registered for another 9 years.

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

Old Business, John N9MWF updated everyone on the new WCRA club trailer. The club has ordered a 7'X16' American Hauler trailer.

Bruce K9OZ gave an updated report to the membership present on the joint Emergency Exercise between WCRA, W9DUP, and W9PCS. A meeting is set for September this year.

New Business, the WCRA club August picnic will be held at Herrick Lake located in Wheaton this year. Thanks to John WT9Y for volunteering to chair the picnic this year.

Don N9YX informed the membership that we need more activity on the club repeaters and asked for any ideas from the membership

Tom N9WBW motioned to adjourn, **Jack KA9HEL** seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2100.

Continued from Page 1

WHILE OTHER DAMAGE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY STRAIGHT LINE WINDS...DAMAGE INDICATING A TORNADIC CIRCULATION WAS FOUND IN WINFIELD IN WESTERN DUPAGE COUNTY. THE TORNADO BEGAN NEAR PRINCE CROSSING ROAD SOUTH OF GENEVA ROAD. THE TORNADO HAD A PATH LENGTH OF APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILES AND ENDED JUST WEST OF GARY AVENUE SOUTH OF GENEVA ROAD. THE MAIN DAMAGE FROM THE TORNADO INCLUDED LARGE UPROOTED HARDWOOD TREES AND EXPOSED STRUCTURES. BASED ON THE OBSERVED DAMAGE...THE TORNADO IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN APPROXIMATELY 300 TO 500 YARDS WIDE AND RATED EF1 ON THE ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE WITH ESTIMATED WIND SPEEDS OF 86 TO 110 MPH. PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF RADAR DATA AND SPOTTER REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE TORNADO OCCURRED AT APPROXIMATELY 308 PM CDT.



AN UPDATE ON THE JOINT EMERGENCY EXECISE 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.

TRIP REPORT ON PROGRESS OF THE NEW CLUB TRAILER AFTER FACTORY VISIT

On August 16, Mark W9UZ, Bob W3MDM, Bob W9BK, Peter N9HDW and Bruce KA0DSF drove to American Hauler in Elkhart, IN to see our trailer. Our host, Bruce, spent over two hours showing us our trailer, other trailers as well as giving us a complete tour of the plant. Attached are some pictures. (Don - I sent them to you a week or so ago. I will be out of state starting tomorrow. Back Sept. 8, so I will miss the September meeting. Peter Richey will give a report on the trip. John Cheney will report on the progress).

Our trailer is about one-half done. It is outside waiting to go into the custom fabrication shop. It is a 7' X 16 dual axle trailer weighing around 3,000 pounds. As of last week, the wiring has been brought inside the trailer. The walls are partially finished. The door, window and roof vent are roughed in. The "D" ring is in. The "e" tracks on each side are in, etc. It seems spacious, especially the 7' high overhead clearance. Once it goes inside, a team will begin work and finish it up. The trailer will be ready for pick-up in approximately 2 weeks.

We saw other finished trailers with some of the options we want, such as overhead cabinetry, roof ladder, roof supports, flooring, etc.

The trailer looks good. It will look even better when the lettering goes on and the equipment goes inside.

Donations are coming in, but more would be welcome - any amount. The donors will be listed on a plaque somewhere inside the van. The amount contributed by each individual will not be shown - only the names.

More "goodies" will be coming along when we receive the unit. More on that later from the design engineers, N9MWF and Joe N9WRO.

In the afternoon, we had a tour, courtesy of Bob, W3MDM, of the World Wide Global Technology Center of HCJB - the call letters of the "Voice of the Andes" 500KW radio station in Quito, Ecuador. They have built around 300 transmitters located all over the world in partnership with other countries. We saw a 100KW unit being assembled. It was quite an experience. Bob's arm is being twisted to give a talk on HCJB as he worked for them in Ecuador and Columbia for a number of years.

Anyone is invited to go with Mark to pick up the trailer. Exact date not yet known.

Mark W9UZ

Communications Trailer Nears Completion

by Wayne Kiser, KF9JC

It was Wednesday, August 16 when five representatives of WCRA took a day trip to Elkhart, Indiana, to visit American Hauler, the company making the new communications trailer. Delivery is just around the corner. Mark Potter (W9UZ), Bruce Dillingham (KA0DSF), Bob Seaberg (W3MDM), Peter Richey (N9HDW) and Bob Krueger (KC9HOP) made the trip.

“Bruce, who represented the factory, gave us a tour which could not have been better,” said Potter. “We spent

WCRA Summer Picnic at Herrick Lake-Lots of Good Food and Fellowship

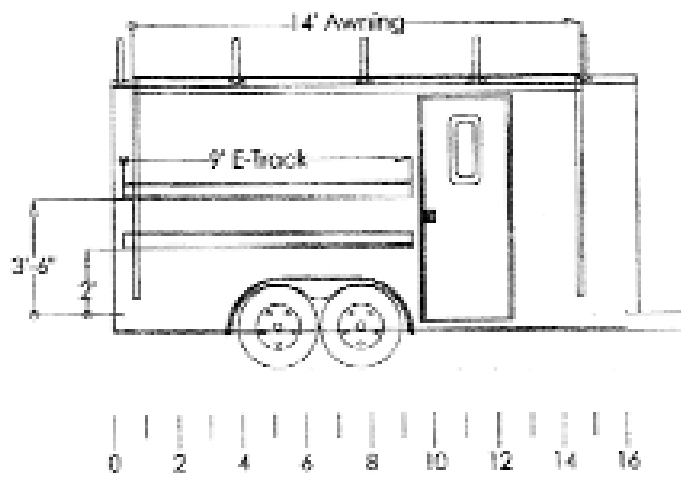


Let the Feeding Begin



Lots of Spirited Conversation





Pictures From Factory Visit

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER



JOHN
CARL
JACK
PAT
TOM

WB9VGJ
N9GZR
KA9HEL
K9JAU
N9CBA

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

Communications Trailer Nears Completion (Continued)

several hours with him and concluded that the trailer is coming along fine and might be ready for the October WCRA meeting.” Here are some photos of that trip.

While at Elkhart, the group made a side trip touring the HCJB Tech Headquarters. HCJB is one of the early religious shortwave stations. Their transmitters are located in Ecuador, South America.

John Cheney (N9MWF) sent some layouts to show you how the inside of the trailer will look.

Mid-Winter Hamfest Sunday, January 27, 2008

HAMFEST

Featuring a Ham Radio, Computer & Electronic Flea Market

DuPage EXPO

4050 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174

(Across the street from Pheasant Run MegaCenter)



Hotel rooms available at
Hilton Garden Inn,
St. Charles, IL
Call 630/584-0700
for reservations

- ◆ Hours: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ◆ Reserved flea market tables
- ◆ Plenty of **FREE** parking
- ◆ Hourly prizes
- ◆ VE testing on site

Talk-in 145.390 -

Tickets:

\$7 in advance with four door-prize stubs

\$9 at door with one stub

Flea market tables \$25 (no electricity)

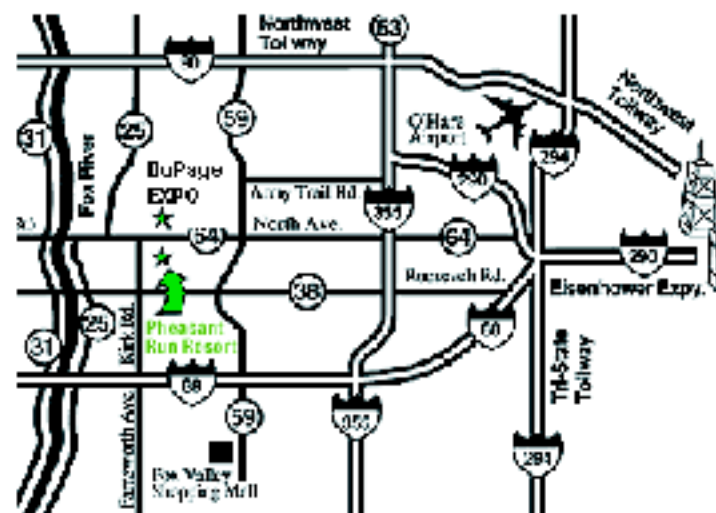
\$30 day of show (if available)

Electricity available for \$25

Full details call (630) 604-0167

e-mail: info@w9ccu.org

www.w9ccu.org



Order advance tickets with four prize stubs!

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ Tickets at \$7 _____ Enclosed _____ Tables at \$25 _____ Enclosed

Mail to: WCRA

P.O. Box QSL

Wheaton, IL 60189

(Include business size SASE)

Advance ticket orders must be received by Jan. 10, 2008

SEPT. QST—AN EMERGENCY SPECIAL

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

STOLEN CARS WERE ARRL'S FIRST EMERGENCY ASSIGNMENT

With today's electronic sophistication, it is hard to realize the crude tasks that hams were asked to perform in the early days of radio. Police chiefs in various parts of the U. S. appealed to hams to help stolen cars in Portland, Oregon! That was in 1922; a year later the hams were asked to help the railroads when their telegraphy lines were down.

That led to the development of the "QRR", which was the "land version of S.O.S.

Gil McElroy, VE3PKD, tells the story on pages 48-50, complete with pictures of W1MK, the ARRL HQ station of the time, flooded out in the big storm of 1936.

ARE WE LEARNING AS WE GO? HAL KRAMER SAYS "WE'RE READY"

Did we learn any lessons from 9/11? Hal Kramer, WJ1B, ARRL's Chief Operating Officer, says we certainly did, and the performance during Katrina indicates a new level of competence. Read all about our learning curve on Pages 38 to 40.

BEHIND THE ADVERTISING --D-STAR (Digital Voice) EXPLAINED

Four pages of photos, charts, and sample screens supplement the text of this article by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ. As Hams, we all know how digital video and audio is booming, and D-Star may be on the threshold of a new era of Amateur Radio. Gary gives us a thorough explanation—as well as an indication of what it is going to cost! See Page 30.

"UP FRONT"—PICTURES OF INTEREST

For those of us interested in the WCRA Emergency Trailer, a photo and article about a club that went another route is of interest. Connecticut Hams bought a 2003 Ford Explorer and set it up for Emergency Communications. The tailgate opens up and the equipment is one giant control panel and monitor. See Page 21. For good measure, you can see a photo of the Christian Rock Band Festival at Mount Union, PA. Hams controlled the traffic for the estimated 100,000 fans.

HINTS AND KINKS IDEA OF THE MONTH – "Rubber Duck" Storage

If you travel with your hand-held, you might want to disconnect the antenna for safety. H & K editor Larry, WR1B, suggests you slip it inside a toothbrush carrying case! That and other helpful ideas are on pages 61 and 62.

MOUNTAINTOP QSOS FOR THE TRAVELING HAMS

Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ spins the tale of group of hams with a passion for VHF Contesting who have their stations and towers organized in school buses. He follows the "caravan" on a contest outing in his article on Page 75 -77.

COLLINS TIME CAPSULE IS OPENED – EUREKA! IT IS 1947 AGAIN

The Cedar Rapids factory built it in 1947, and Bruce J. Howes, W1UJR, restored it. What happened in between makes a fascinating story on Pages 80 and 81. The original sales price was \$1,450, today's equivalent of \$15,000.

SEPTEMBER 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 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.
- 7th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39 Program will be on Packet since our Club packet repeater is back running smoothly. Come with your questions.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for October.
- 27th: 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.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting September 7th, 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

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First Class Mail

