



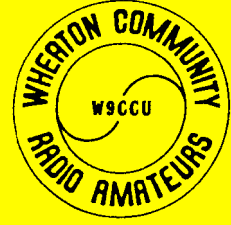
HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 531

Founded 1948 November 2007



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

THE CHURCH IS HAVING AN EVENT THIS COMING FRIDAY EVENING THAT BEGINS AT 6:30 PM AND RUNS UNTIL 9:00 PM. PARKING MAY BE A LITTLE TIGHT FOR THE MEETING THIS FRIDAY EVENING SO IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU ARRIVE A FEW MINUTES EARLY TO UNLOAD YOUR ITEMS FOR THE AUCTION. THERE IS PLENTY OF ON STREET PARKING AVAILABLE AROUND THE CHURCH AS WELL.

WCRA's new club trailer was introduced to the membership in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church at the October meeting.



Norm Eastman, N9GSA, Lombard resident and long-time member of the WCRA, became a silent key on Saturday, Oct. 27th. Many members of the Club were present at the visitation last Tuesday at Brust Memorial Home to extend condolences to his wife Mary and daughter Danielle. Norm filled many roles in the WCRA organization and was a friend and Elmer to many.

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 Reprtr

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

The leaves are changing colors and there is a slight chill in the air. Could the Christmas Season be far behind? That means our mid-winter Hamfest is creeping closer and closer. If you have not thought about working on something during or before our club's principal fund raiser, please give it some thought.

Before we get to January though, the annual club auction is this Friday evening. If you have items that you would like to move on to a new home, consider bringing them this Friday to the auction. You could label them with a minimum acceptable price and your call sign. That way when the auctioneer wants to kick things off he won't have to spend a lot of time getting everything ready.

This past Saturday the club lost one of its valued members - Norm, K9GSA. Norm spent a great deal of time helping me when I first got licensed and was buying new gear. He was always there to answer any question you might have no matter how dumb it might have been. I had a lot of dumb questions as a beginner and Norm will be missed. Our collective prayers go out to his wife Mary and daughter Danny.

We still have as number of volunteer positions that need people to step forward and fill. I know that I must sound like a broken turntable to some of you but we are a volunteer organization and we have to ask people to get involved, just in case you thought that all of the things you see and hear from the club appear to fall off of a tree. We could use a Health and Welfare person to head up getting cards and flowers to our members in a timely fashion. Joe's (N9WRO) position

as Public Service Chair still needs someone to follow up on the great job Joe did. If you fell so moved and would like to throw you hat into the leadership business contact one of the officers.

Also if you feel that you have done something in your regular work job or hobby that you would like to share with the membership, please let Peter, KB9KZO know. He is always looking for interesting programs for the membership.

Bring your stuff to auction off on Friday.

de N9NYX,

Don

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr
KC9HKN
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2007

President, **Don N9NYX** called the meeting to order at 1930. Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by **Peter KB9KZO**, **Marty N9NTM** seconded, and the motion passed.

President, Don N9NYX opened the meeting with introductions.

Vice President, Peter KB9KZO, informed those present that the evening's program will be given by **Peter N9HDW** about his visit to W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. Thanks to Peter N9HDW for a great presentation on W1AW. Next month's program will be our annual auction, so clean out those closets.

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

Treasurer, **Ken N9HQ**, nothing reported.

Secretary, **Todd KC9HKN** we had 24 attend the October meeting. We had **Stan Niznik, W3SXT**, who was from Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania come to our club meeting. A big welcome goes out to him for attending our meeting this evening.

Hamfest, **John WT9Y**. We need volunteers for the WCRA 2008 Hamfest.

RAB, **Rich N9DKO** nothing new to report.

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.

Web Page **Tom N9WBW** nothing reported.

Motion to accept reports by Rich N9DKO, Marty N9NTM seconded, and the motion passed.

Old Business, The new WCRA club trailer was on display at the meeting. Thanks to **Mark, W9UZ** for bringing the trailer to the meeting and everyone else who helped on the club trailer. The club trailer committee needs volunteers to help finish out the trailer, if you can help please contact them.

New Business, Marty N9NTM informed those present he would be conducting the 220 net on Sunday evenings after the 2M club net is over and also the 440 net at 8:30 PM on Tuesday evenings.

Marty N9NTM motioned to adjourn, **Steve N9OA** seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2115.

NOV. QST-BEHIND THE SCENES ISSUE

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

THOSE QUARTERBACK'S HAVE WIRED HELMETS!

“Football: Fumbles, Field Goals and Frequencies” takes you behind the scenes with the two hams that are “Frequency Coordinators” for the New York Jets. The Bears Coordinator is Jen McCarthy, KB0OPG. On Sunday, Oct. 23rd the Bears QB had radio failure and sparked a last minute drive to win the game—using his own plays. (Page 55)

WANT TO EARN A \$1,000,000? THE DOD WANTS YOU TO INVENT!

Go behind the scenes with Steve Ford’s report on the Department of Defense competition to find a light-weight battery pack for the combat soldier. The specs and the website are real: www.dod.ddre.mil/prize/. Hurry the deadline is November 30th.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE ‘BRICKYARD’ – FUN AT INDY

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club has three special events a year, and received unusual cooperation from a 9-year old Ham, Amanda Feriante, with a call of KG6UYW. Brian Smith’s report of the event makes interesting reading on Pages 60 and 61. Amanda brought her whole family of five to be involved in the special event!

“A RISING TIDE LIFTS ALL HAMS”—BAY OF FUNDY NO EXCEPTION

Dave Rosenthal, N6TST, was a travel writer who enjoyed doing articles about “different” places—“Polar Bear Portable” won him a QST Cover Award. This month he wrote about the “super tides” at the Bay of Fundy. Dave urges you to create your own “Interesting Special Event” and reporting it on Slow Scan TV! See Pages 53 and 54.

FOLLOWING THE NEW FCC RULES – A ROAD MAP TO COMPLIANCE

Dan Henderson, N1ND, who is identified as an “ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist, takes on the job of explaining the new FCC Rules. He also gives us a website to check for details: www.ecfr.gpoaccess.gov Check pages 45-47.

“HOW’S DX?” COLUMN –JUNGLE DRUMS AND EXOTIC BIRDS

Bernie McClenny, W3UR, offers you 24 different DXpeditions to test your skills in breaking through the pileups. The list starts out with Swaziland (3DAO) and ends with Socorro Island (XF4). The complete list can be found on pages 90 and 91.

“THE HANDY YAGI ANTENNA” FITS ON YOUR HANDI-TALKIE

Tom Hart, AD1B, had fun fastening a small 440 Yagi antenna on a Yaesu FT-60, and passes along construction instructions and antenna specifications in a two-page article on pages 37 and 38. He also recommends it for fox hunting.

HF MOBILE ANTENNA SHOPPERS GUIDE—SCREWDRIVER OR WHIP?

What’s a Ham to do? Rich Roznoy, K1OF, gives you four pages of answers to the question. Read his article on comparison shopping and performance ratings – page 30.

First Annual Great Lakes D-Star Forum - Saturday November 3, 2007

8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. – Meet the AES gang and see the Latest Equipment on display.

10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. – Attend the first annual Great Lakes Area D-STAR Forum presented by AES.

Learn about D-Star from the leading experts in this new amazing technology.

Guest Speakers:

Ray Novak, N9JA (D-STAR Introduction) ICOM National Amateur Radio Sales Manager
Kermit Carlson, W9XA; Chicago, IL
Jim McClellan, N5MIJ; Dallas, TX
Tim Barret, K6BIV; Mt. Diablo, CA

There will also be representatives from the Chicago and Milwaukee area D-Star repeater clubs.
D-Star is no longer a theory but a viable communications method in operation around the Great Lakes area.

As an added bonus, you can visit the Milwaukee Radio Club's hamfest across the street from us at the Elk's lodge.

The Boy Scouts will be selling food and beverages as a fund raiser at AES and the Elk's lodge.

Location:

Amateur Electronic Supply
5710 W Good Hope Rd
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OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER



MARK	W9UZ
LARRY	KA9KDC
JOE	N9WRO
ROBERT	N9IRY
ROBERTO	WA9E

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

Mid-Winter Hamfest Sunday, January 27, 2008

HAMFEST

Featuring a Ham Radio, Computer & Electronic Flea Market

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(Across the street from Pheasant Run MegaCenter)



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- ◆ 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)

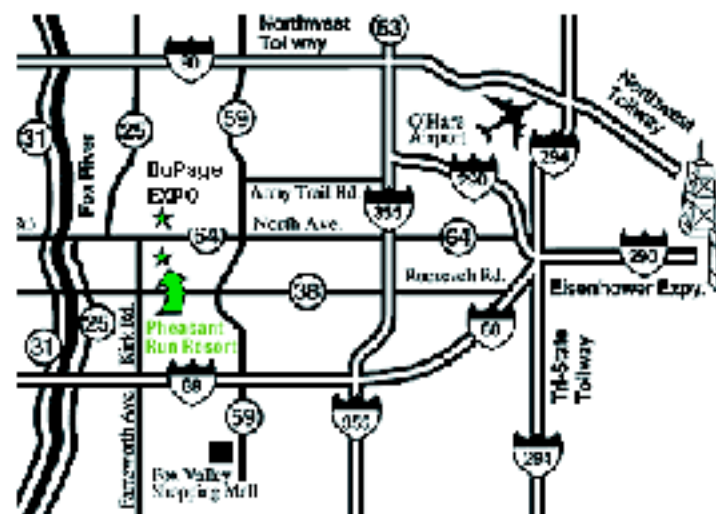
\$30 day of show (if available)

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 95L

Wheaton, IL 60189

(Include business size SASE)

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

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 2nd: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39 Program will be the Club's annual auction.
- 6th: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- 8th: 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.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for October.
- 21st: 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 November 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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Wheaton, Illinois 60189
eMail: donlin@xnet.com

First Class Mail

