



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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MERRY

CHRISTMAS

AND HAPPY

NEW YEAR

Remember that the December meeting is a gathering to sample each other's desserts and fellowship with each other. So please bring a dessert to pass and come and enjoy an evening of 'fat pills' and rag chew.

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

As we approach the end of the year it seems that this is a good time to reflect on where we as a club have come and where we are attempting to get to in the next year.

Several items were accomplished and several were still left to be worked on. We had a profitable Hamfest and after two years at the Expo venue we are prepared for what we have to do next month. We as a Club overcame some difficult times in whether to acquire and what type of vehicle to acquire to replace the old truck. Our new trailer has arrived and club energy is now being directed toward outfitting the inside and determining the type of artwork for the outside.

Two of the major disappointments from my standpoint is that we are still not back up the COD tower and out of Larry and Carol's home. As a Cub fan, maybe this is the year. Our membership has fallen around 90 members. This has several ramifications. We have to call on the same individuals to wear many hats or some positions go unfilled. Whether the failure to return to the COD tower and our membership decline may be argued either way. Even if we were on the Esplanade Building as the 440 machine is with its excellent coverage in the Chicago area, members have to want to get on the air and use our systems.

2008 will have its own challenges as every year does, but I would ask that we all pitch in and try to make WCRA's 60th year a one to remember.

See you down the log,
de N9NYX

Don

**SIGN-UP TO
BE A HAM-
FEST WORKER**

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr
KC9HKN
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2007

President, **Don N9NYX** called the meeting to order at 1930. Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by **Steve N9OA**, **Marty N9NTM** seconded, and the motion passed.

President, Don N9NYX opened the meeting with introductions. Don N9NYX announced that Steve N9OA was

our new Public Service Chairman, thanks to Steve for taking on this position in the club.

Vice President, **Peter KB9KZO**, **Bruce K9OZ** ran our annual auction tonight at the meeting. There were many bargains to be had this evening and everyone present had a great time bidding on the items people brought. Thanks to Bruce K9OZ for running another successful auction. Our next months meeting will be our Club Christmas party.

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

Treasurer, **Ken N9HQ**, reported the club balance in checking was \$3, 372.51 and the club balance in money market was \$19, 296.

Secretary, **Todd KC9HKN** we had 24 attend the November meeting. We had the following visitors attend the meeting tonight, **Kent N9NDW**, **Paul N9LXF**, **Paul KF9TV**, Rose and Diane daughters of our visitor last month **Stan W3SXT**.

Hamfest, **John WT9Y**, reported there will be another meeting at his home on November 11; he also has tickets that people can take to sell at this time. We have added the ability to pay via pay pal off the club web site for those who would like to buy tickets. We would like to have a club table this year and need someone to staff this. The new club trailer will also be inside the show this year. Thanks to **Rich N9DKO** and Bruce K9OZ for volunteering for hamfest ticket chairs this year. John WT9Y reported that we have asked new vendors to attend the hamfest this year. **Tom N9WBW** will be our move in coordinator again this year. There will be VE testing at the Hilton next door conducted by the WCRA VE team. We need volunteers for the WCRA 2008 Hamfest. If you can volunteer please contact John WT9Y or Todd KC9HKN.

RAB, **Larry KA9KDC** reported that the club 2M repeater now has echo link plus IRLP.

Hamletter, Don N9NYX if you're not receiving the hamletter please update your email address with the club. Also contact him with any stories you may have or photos you would like to have in the ham letter.

Public Service, Steve N9OA has volunteered to take over as chair of this position. Steve N9OA announced the club events that we support in 2008 and thanks everyone for their support in the coming year.

Web Page, Tom N9WBW nothing reported.

Motion to accept reports by Marty N9NTM, **Peter N9HDW** seconded, and the motion passed.

December QST Reviewed-Field Day Scores

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

CCU FD Results on Page 88 – 4582 points with 20 operators and less than 150 watts—9th from the top of the list in Category 6A. The article starts on page 88 with the comment: “the highest score really isn’t the purpose of Field Day. It’s Field Day “Things” that count.” The author came up with the 10 on his list which will amuse you.

The “ghost writer” is actually “Percy” the FD cartoon “bug” (Bitten by the Bug) who promoted FD this year. You’ll find good pictures on page 20, too.

RADIO HISTORY REVISITED—THE FIRST TRANSATLANTIC BROADCAST

On Dec. 12, 1901, Marconi claimed to hear transatlantic signals originating in Cornwall, UK, at his site in Signal Hill, Newfoundland. The frequency was reported to be 810-879 kHz. Two radio clubs, one in Cornwall and another in Montreal, ran an interesting “revisiting” of the historic event. Read about it on page 42.

MORE MARCONI HONORS

Planners picked the North American side of the ocean for a combined US and Canadian emergency radio demonstration. The Marconi Memorial Cabot Tower building at Signal Hill was chosen by ARRL President Joel Harrison and the RAC President Earle Smith on Sept. 29-30 for a special event. Photos and details are on Page 13.

KIDS DAY – January 6, 2008.

Worried about the hobby not getting new entrants? You have the power to do something about it. Try the website www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-aurvey.html

NEW PORTABLE ANTENNA FITS IN YOUR POCKET.

It has five telescoping elements that are pictured on page 45. QST Editor Steve Ford gives it a thumbs up. It’s \$20 plus shipping and covers 2, 1.25, and 70 cm. Available from: www.ee-3.com

NEW PRODUCT TEST – YEASU FT-450 (HF and 6 Meters)

A camo finish and a “talking frequency” feature, plus an under \$1,000 price make this transceiver unique. Rich Lindquist, N1RL, gives it high marks as a lightweight, compact 100 watt entry in the race. The five page article begins on page 53, and a full page ad is on page 7.

**YOU! COULD BE FILLING THIS
SPACE WITH AN ARTICLE YOU
HAVE WRITTEN.**

Old Business, **Dale N9JE** reported on the lettering and what it will look like on the new club trailer and **John N9MWF** reported on the antenna system that will be used on the trailer. **Mark W9UZ** reported that we are currently waiting for our space at Emergency Management where the club trailer will be stored. Thanks to all who have donated funds for the new club trailer. The club trailer committee needs volunteers to help finish out the trailer, if you can help please contact them.

New Business, **Mark W9UZ** said there is an order going in for club clothing, **Jim W9DHX** modeled some of the club clothing. You can go to www.hamthreads.com to see what the clothing looks like.

Kent W9NDW DuPage County ARES, presented information about this group and passed out information to those interested.

Bruce K9OZ informed those present that there is a phone sweepstakes coming up and those interested would be welcome to come over and operate at his home. Hope everyone had a good time at Bruce's over the contest weekend.

Rich N9DKO motioned to adjourn, **Charlie WB9SGD** seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2130.

WCRA YEAR IN REVIEW



Workers at Hamfest



Outside dress for Hamfest



New VP



Show & Tell



New Club Trailer



Summer Picnic



Tower damage after August Tornado



Club Auction called by K9OZ



CLUB SALE

**PLACE A CLUB ORDER OF ANY SIZE BETWEEN NOW AND CHRISTMAS AND
GET 20% OFF OUR REGULAR PRICES!!**

**ORDER BEFORE DECEMBER 1 AND WE GUARANTEE DELIVERY BEFORE
CHRISTMAS.**

DENIM SHIRTS \$29

POLO SHIRTS \$24

HATS \$12

SWEAT SHIRTS \$20

6800 SPRING/FALL JACKET \$69

8800 WINTER JACKET \$79

ALL PRICES INCLUDE YOUR CLUB LOGO EMBROIDERED ON FRONT

**JACKET PRICES INCLUDE YOUR CLUB LOGO EMBROIDERED ON THE FRONT
AND FULL BACK**

ON ALL ITEMS:

2X ADD \$2 3X ADD \$3 4X ADD \$4 5X ADD \$5 6X ADD \$6

B & B EMBROIDERY

517-625-5037

dbirdsley@tds.net

www.hamthreads.com

Contact Mark, W9UZ, at w9uz@arrl.net for further details.

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER



ROBERT	W3MDM
DON	K9MUF
MARTY	KA9RCC
DOUG	W9NJM
JOHN	N9GLZ
LARRY	WA9RTE
GEORGE	KA3HSW

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

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)

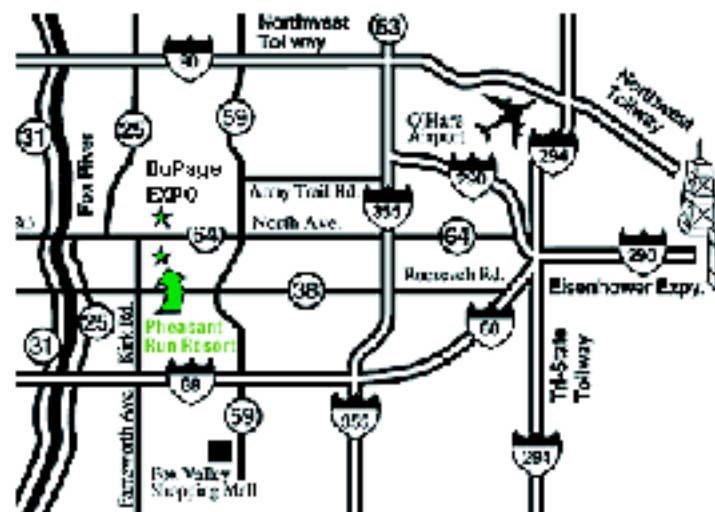
\$30 day of show (if available)

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 95L

Wheaton, IL 60189

(Include business size SASE)

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

DECEMBER 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: Annual Christmas Dessert and Rag Chew at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39 Bring a dessert to pass and an empty tummy.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for October.
- 20th: 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.
- 25th MERRY CHRISTMAS
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.

WCRA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DESSERT November 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

Club and HamLetter Mailing Address:

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First Class Mail

