



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly  
 Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
 Issue 533      Founded 1948    January 2008



**uPage EXPO CENTER**  
**WHEATON HAMFEST**  
**SUN JAN 28TH**



### 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	Steve,	N9OA
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

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This publication uses QuarkXPress 6.5 and Photoshop 7.01		



## From the President's Gavel

by Don, N9NYX WCRA President

Well here we are in the home stretch for our upcoming Mid-Winter Hamfest. This morning temperatures reminded me a little of the winter of 1985 with the morning temperatures of minus 25 with the zero degree reading this morning. Let us hope that it is a little warmer on the 27th.

If you have not had a chance to sign up for this year's work force please do so at this Friday's meeting. For a Hamfest the size of our's it always takes a large number of volunteers to continue to make ours the success that is has become.

The April elections are not too far away and my position of President will need someone to fill it. My past two years has had some successes and some failures. We as a club were able to put our differences aside and purchase a trailer to replace the old truck the club sold. The biggest disappointment for me has to be our failure to get the 2M and 220 antennas back up on the COD radio station tower. This is a work in progress but it had been very disappointing to me how long it has taken to inch forward oh so slowly. Maybe 2008 will bless us with some progress in this area and Carol will have some space freed up in her home.

Once again I cannot emphasize enough that this is an all volunteer club and we need qualified and dedicated individuals to step forward and fill the elected and chair positions that become available. Please consider running for a position in the April elections.

See everyone at Church this Friday.

de Don, N9NYX

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

**WCRA  
Meeting  
Minutes**

by: Todd Carr  
KC9HKN  
WCRA  
Secretary



The meeting minutes for the last regularly scheduled general membership meeting held in November were published in the December 2007 Hamletter

## MEETING DATES FOR 2008

The following are the General Membership meeting dates for this calendar year. July 4th is the first Friday so we have selected the following Friday to meet. At this printing the First Presbyterian Church does not see any conflicts with our schedule. If a meeting date needs to be changed at a later date, we hope to give all of you adequate notice of the change.

**January 4th**

**February 1st**

**March 7th**

**April 4th**

**May 2nd**

**June 6th**

**July 11th**

**August 1st**

**September 5th**

**October 3rd**

**November 7th**

**December 5th**

Mark your calendars.

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It is with regret that we announce the passing of Howard Lueck, WB9IRH. Howard was very active on the WCRA repeaters in the 70's, 80's, and 90's. He had recently been running the High-Noon net on the Argonne repeater from the nursing home that he had been living in. Services were held on December 29th.

# QST FOR JANUARY-VINTAGE RADIO

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **THE BIG RADIO REMODEL--COLLINS KWM-2 FOR SERIOUS CW OPERATION**

The top story of the issue is how to jazz up the classic Collins for doing a first rate job on CW. Those of you lucky enough to have one sitting around should race to page 30 and get started on the project that is authored by Richard Bitzer, WB2ZKW.

## **MOBILEERS REJOICE -- A NEW ANTENNA IDEA FOR LOW CLEARANCES**

How many times have you heard that “thwack” as your mobile antenna hit’s a low clearance overhang? Oops, and I wonder if it is still there! Steve Cerwin has come up with an idea for what he calls “The Arch”. It is designed for maximum radiation, with the least impact on overhead obstructions. Look on Page 39.

## **NEW PRODUCTS--ICOM IC-R9500 RECEIVER**

The QST Technical Advisor gives this silver and blue electronic bundle the once over and measurement tests on page 69--dream on price of \$13,500! If you stay with the complete story (five pages) you’ll have a great idea of what is possible today with what those engineers can do--even if you can’t afford it!

## **DO IT YOURSELF ANTIQUE RADIO TRANSMITTER**

There was a wartime(WW II) British clandestine radio transmitter called the “Tinker Box”. Two hams have replicated it and the story of their project is on page 35 of this issue. It was inspired by a book, “The Secret Wireless War”, and you’ll enjoy the story of the careful way they moved forward with their recreation of radio history.

## **CONTESTING -- HOW TO MAKE IT FUN**

Even kids can do it! Rob Browstein, K6RB, describes his adventures in the contesting game--including the use of his two sons in the act. He includes a lot of helpful hints, including a schedule of the major contest events for the year in the four pages from 51 to 54.

## **NEW ANTIQUE RADIO BOOK REVIEWED**

For those of you who want a look back at the hobby, get this one for your library. It is reviewed on page 93, and is called: THE WORLD OF HAM RADIO. 1901-1950: A SOCIAL HISTORY. If you were alive for some of that period, then it will have even a greater meaning. It was authored by Richard A. Bartlett, professor emeritus at Florida State University, and covers a dramatic part of Ham Radio’s exciting history.

# OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY



CAROL

KB9FYL

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

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

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)

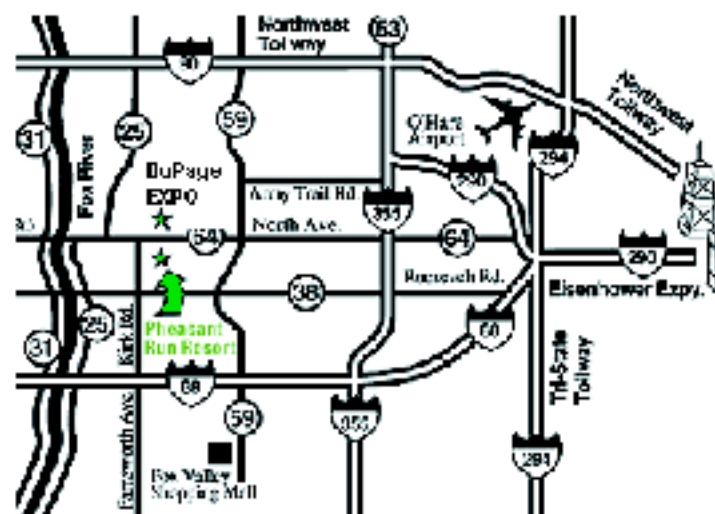
\$30 day of show (if available)

Electricity available for \$25

Full details call **(630) 604-0167**

e-mail: [info@w9ccu.org](mailto:info@w9ccu.org)

[www.w9ccu.org](http://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

## JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 3rd: 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.
- 4th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39. Program for January will be our Mid-Winter Hamfest final details.
- 8th: Club breakfast every Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for February
- 24th: 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](http://vetesting.harrykamer.com) for the latest details.
- 27th: Mid-Winter Hamfest at the DuPage Expo Center
- 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 January 4th, 2008, 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**

