

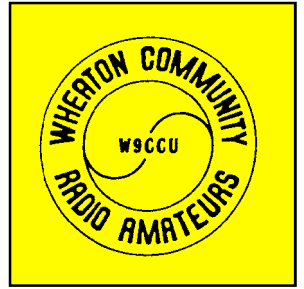
# HAMLETTER

## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 534      Founded 1948      February 2008



### HAMFEST 2008



### WCRA Staff

#### Electe d Office rs

President	Don ,	N9NYX
Vice President	Peter ,	KB9KZO
Secretary	Todd	KC9HKN
Treasurer	Ken ,	N9HQ
Custodian	Bob ,	W9BK

#### Vol untee r Com mitt ee 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 Licens e Staf f

Training Classes	Jack ,	KA9HEL
Volunteer Exam.	Harry ,	K9HK

#### WCRA Repeater Admini strati ve 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 /(-1.60 0)	Net Control: Marty

KA9RCC

#### WCRA Repeaters

145 .390 / 144.7 90	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 publica tion uses QuarkXPress 6.5 and Photo shop CS3



## From the President's Gavel

by Don, N9NYX WCRA President

Our Hamfest for this year is now behind us and we can look forward to 2009 and how we can offer a better experience to both vendors and attendees.

I got the impression in working the stage with Doug, W9NJM, that the crown was a little larger than last year's. Our more people were staying in the venue longer than they usually did in the past.

This year Doug decided to use the Expo's sound system which had recently been installed. There were some dead spots or areas that the volume was not as loud as it needed to be for the size of the hall and or the number of people in the hall.

I think all of us would like to have a vendor that we would be able to buy new radios from. There are several things we may be able to do to entice a vendor that has in the past attended our Hamfest to once again consider making our show part of their yearly calendar. I hate to suggest offering free tables or an expense rebate but I think it may make sense to consider some way to encourage someone like Ham Radio Outlet to attend our Mid-Winter Hamfest. If you have any ideas please bring them to the meeting this friday.

If any of you have any ideas that you would like to put forward to improve our Hamfest I would like to encourage you to speak up this friday. John, WT9Y, would like to have constructive input.

Our Vice- President, Peter, KB9KZO, has a job that conflicts with being able to get to many of our Friday night meetings and he has a hard time getting the time to spend putting together the programs for each monthly meeting. If any of you have any ideas

for meeting programs would you please contact one of the board members.

I sat in on the RAB's last meeting a couple of weeks ago and just after the January meeting the 440 machine appears to have lost its ability to transmit more than several blocks from the repeater site. The RAB is planning on removing the unit and repairing it.

I think that is enough from me for this issue and I hope to see everyone this Friday.

Don

## WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr  
KC9HKN  
WCRA  
Secretary



## WCRA MONTHLY MEETING JANUARY 4, 2008

President **Don N9NYX** called the meeting to order at 1930.

A motion was made by **Tom N9NBW** to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published and seconded by **Jim W9DHX**.

President Don opened the meeting with introductions.

There were 21 members present. Don announced that it was time to renew your membership and pay the yearly dues.

The meeting was turned over to **John WT9Y** for the hamfest report. Volunteers are still needed and a sign up sheet will circulate for those interested.

There will be some new things at this year's fest. We will have some forums, D-STAR, ARES, and **Peter's N9HDW** trip to W1AW. The club trailer will be on display and be used for the 2m talk in.

There was no secretary report because **Todd KC9HKN** was out of town

There was no Vice Presidents report because **Peter KB9KZO** was not in attendance.

Treasurer **Ken N9HQ** reported that the club has \$2,191.82 in checking and \$19,328.65 in money market and the trailer is paid for.

Custodian **Bob W9BK** gave an inventory of the club property still in the storage locker and items that were moved to the trailer.

Public service- **Steve N9OA** reported that he will announce the dates for upcoming events when they become available. Volunteers will be needed.

RAB- No report.

Membership- **Bruce K9OZ** will be collecting dues and hopes our numbers will surpass last years 87.

Tom N9WBW reported that the WEB page is running and reminded everyone that there is a place there for "anchors".

A motion was made by **Randolph W9HE** and seconded by **Tom N9WBW** to accept the reports.

Announcements: **Dale NJ9E** reported the passing of **Howard Lueck WB9IRH**.

There was no old business.

New Business:

Steve N9OA presented posters with the proposed lettering for the trailer and stated that it would be completed for the hamfest.

Randolph W9HE would like to have more volunteers for Net Control for the Sunday evening 2m net.

A motion was made by **Tom N9CBA** and seconded by Tom N9WBW to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 2020.

Respectfully submitted:

Bob Krueger W9BK for Todd KC9HKN

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## MEETING DATES FOR 2008

**March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, July 11th, August 1st,  
September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th**

# FEBRUARY QST—NEW “RADIOSPORT” DEPARTMENT ON CONTESTING

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **MIDWESTERN BOY MAKES IT TO ARRL CONTEST BRANCH MANAGER**

The “magazine of Amateur radio” has created a whole new section devoted to the art of “contesting” and related issues. The man in charge is Sean Kutzko, KX9X, who got his start at the University of Illinois. This issue features his personal story and there are summaries of contests, hints on “branching out into the world of competitive ham radio, and other items of interest. Look on pages 83 to 89.

## **PRODUCT REVIEW – THE MANUFACTURERS’ NEW STUFF**

Two dual band Transceivers and a Personal Navigator get the analysis this month on pages 45 to 51. One is the Kenwood TM-D710A Dual Band Mobile—an upgrade of the year 2000’s introductory D-700A. The testers explain the improvements and show how it can be used in conjunction with the AvMap G-5 Personal Navigator. Just to be sure that you get another angle, the Yaesu VX-3R Minature Dual Band Handheld gets thoroughly covered, too.

## **LIGHTNING—UNDERSTAND IT OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES**

That’s what the headline reads on Larry Scheff’s article on the risks of having lightning striking your ham gear—or your computer equipment associated with your station. Diagrams and formulas help you understand the problem. It is on pages 40 through 43.

## **MOON BOUNCE AND DX-PEDITION ACTION IN ONE PACKAGE**

If you are familiar with DXCC work and moon bounce action, this article will please you. Add a change in the administrative status of the island of Bonaire and it makes it that much more interesting. Page 63 and 64 give you a photo report and narrative about two hams that had fun in a unique situation.

## **REMODELING YOUR BUG**

The original Vibroplex patents were issued in 1907. Tom Hart, AD1B, suggests you might like to modernize it with his suggestions on page 73. One of the best plans is to make a paddle without destroying the nature of the original device. If you’ve got one of those “classics” around the shack, this idea may be for you.

## **QST EDITOR DISCUSSES “TIME NUTS”**

Steve Ford writes a definition of the persons who are “devoted to the art and science of precision time-keeping and frequency measurement.” The science makes possible the whole field of GPS. So set your watch with care. His article is on page 82.

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I found a site that's free and gives maps/info about repeaters and their coverage. Only played with it briefly and found it to show the SSRC repeater here about correct. It's a little cumbersome to use since at least so far I have only been able to search states and general locations not cities. And since I didn't experiment much I'm not sure how good/accurate/complete it is. I'll give it a try on a few others I'm familiar with and see how they look when I get a chance. Maybe if it's too cumbersome to use for driving planning on a trip it will still be helpful for finding what's there at a vacation, hamfest, or business destination you'll stay at a few days. But if it's helpful at all the free part compares favorably with the \$39.95 CDs out there.

<http://K5EHX.net/repeaters/>

John

*Another eMail from John Wiley, W4FID*

**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@arri.net for further details.**

# WCRA CHRISTMAS PARTY



Plenty of good eats and time to ragchew.



NICE DECORATIONS



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



BRUCE

K9OZ

JOHN

W4FID

RICHARD

K9MGX

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.

Here is an inventory of the club's property that is now located in either the storage locker or the club trailer. The goal in the near future would be to determine what is of use to the club in the future and dispose of the remaining items so that the club storage locker may be turned back to the storage facility and reduce the club's cash outflow by about \$100 per month. Please look over the items stored in the storage locker so that you may come prepared to discuss what the club should be planning to do with these items.

INVENTORY OF WCRA PROPERTY IN STORAGE  
LOCKER AS OF 11/30/2007

- 1 Large storage box on wheels containing misc. lengths of COAX cables.  
Several heavy duty power distribution cables.
- 2 Power distribution/fuse boxes.
- 2 6ft. PVC pipes with ground rods.
- 12 Folding chairs. Most not in good condition.
- 3 Antenna rotators.  
Coil of green grounding cable. (approx 50')
- 1 Box misc. junk from old truck. (should be trashed)
- 1 Roof mounting tripod.
- 2 6' 2x4's bolted together.
- 1 Waste container.
- 1 Green garden hose.
- 1 4' tall equipment mounting cabinet.
- 1 Box of work gloves.
- 6 Original cartons from club rigs.
- 1 Box of misc. office supplies.
- 1 FAX machine
- 1 Large storage box on wheels containing antenna support ropes.
- 1 Large storage box on wheels containing club archive material.  
Hamfest money counter and cash boxes.

INVENTORY OF WCRA PROPERTY IN  
TRAILER AS OF 11/30/2007

- 2 Halogen light stands.
- 2 Portable halogen lights.
- 1 5' long table.
- 1 Box misc. office supplies.
- 1 Box of radio manuals.
- 1 Coffee maker.
- 2 Coffee urns.
- 6 Traffic cones.
- 1 IFREN radio.
- 1 Power supply ICOM PS55.
- 2 VHF rigs w/antennas.
- 1 Icom IC735 rig.
- 1 Large blue box containing misc. field day equipment (wire antennas filters etc.)
- 1 Heathkit battery charger.
- 1 Tool box containing misc tools.
- 1 OEM radio.
- 1 Box misc. power cords and COAX.
- 1 Box of wire antennas and COAX.
- 1 Box Mag-Mount antennas.
- 1 PVC pipe containing ground rods.
- 3 2 way COAX switches.

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I found a web site for a company that has a line of plastic battery storage holders. They have various sizes and colors. Intended to store dry cells (AA; AAA; C; D; 9V) in a holder that keeps them from rolling around a tool box or drawer and since they pretty much enclose the cells it reduces the chances of them shorting by being jumbled together or contacting other stray stuff. Seems like a nice way to keep them handy, organized, and minimize the danger of them shorting.

[www.toolsaviation.com](http://www.toolsaviation.com)

I ordered a few for the camper and my ham radio "go kit" so I'll see how they are.

John

*This eMail we received from John Wiley, W4FID, who, before moving to Florida, belonged to WCRA.*



## FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39. Program for February TBA.
- 5th: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- 7th: 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 March.
- 28th: 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.

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 February 1st, 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**

