

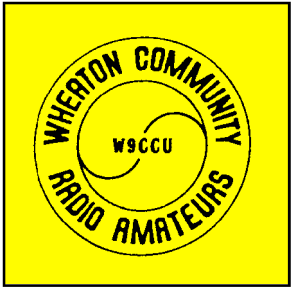
HAMLETTER

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 536 Founded 1948 April 2008



THIS FRIDAY, AT THE APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, WCRA WILL ELECT NEW OFFICERS FOR THE COMING TERM.

If you are a paid up member at this Friday's meeting you will be able to vote on the following officer positions:

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| President | Mark, W9UZ |
| Vice-President | John, N9NA |
| Secretary | OPEN |
| Custodian | Bob, W 9BK |

You will have noticed that the above list has one opening for the club secretary that we do not have anyone offering to run for that position. If you know someone who would make a good officer of WCRA and have gotten his/her permission to enter their name in the nomination process, please do this on Friday evening. John, NT9Y, has volunteered to officiate the election portion of the meeting. Please contact him or any board member with candidate suggestions. Come informed to vote this Friday.

Underneath this article you will have noticed the logo of the Scout-O-Rama that will be held by the Three Fires Council at Cantigny Park on May 10th, 2008. WCRA is in the midst of preparing to demonstrate what we can do as a club in the field of amateur radio. We are going to have several demonstration stations from High Frequency to VHF/UHF to Digital. There are expected to be several thousand Scouts in attendance on that Saturday. Have you signed up to participate? The trailer will be on display and there is always something to do. Peter, N9HDW, is the club point man for this event. If you would like to become involved please contact Peter.

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 Serevice	Steve ,	N9OA
VHF/HF Awards	John ,	N9MWF
Webmaster	Tom ,	N9WBW

Amateur Licens e Staf f

Training Classes	Jack ,	KA9HEL
Volunteer Exam.	Harry ,	K9HK

WCRA Repe ater 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 I: Marty

KA9RCC

WCRA Repe aters

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: hamleter@w9ccu.org	

This publication uses QuarkXPress 6.5 and Photo shop CS3



From the President's Gavel

by Don, N9NYX WCRA President

This is my last official article as your President. (Do I hear roars of cheering??) Have the past two years been better or worse for WCRA while I was at the head table? Personally, I think some things have improved while some have gone backward. We need to improve in both areas.

The club had a little difficulty getting rid of the old truck and finding a suitable replacement. The acquisition of the new trailer was accomplished mostly by donations of interested club members. The trailer garnered many compliments at the January Hamfest as many people toured it. There is a lot of work still to be done but the trailer committee has made a nice start with the installation of work stations and antennas. WCRA will have a chance to show off the progress made to date at the Scout-O-Rama at Cantigny on May 10th. Please join us if you have the time

Our paid up membership continues to slide downward. Some have voiced the belief that the 2M machine not being back up on the COD Tower has hurt our ability to recruit. I think we need to offer more interesting programs for both young and older members. If you have any ideas please bring them to the attention of the executive board.

Getting the 2M machine back up on the COD Tower is a particularly frustrating process. I have spent a lot of time with the station manager and I know some of the constraints he is under in trying to get us back up with balancing the college's need for a viable revenue stream. I had hoped we would get the green light much before now.

Finally let me thank you all, the membership of WCRA, for letting me serve you this past two years. I think that we have many talented members that are already wearing more than one hat. This is because the pay is sooooo good that we can't spread these opportunities around.

I think the future is bright for our club as we move through our 60th year.

Don, N9NYX

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr
KC9HKN
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Meeting Minutes for March 7, 2008

President, **Don N9NYX** called the meeting to order at 1930. Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by **Tom N9WBW, Mark W9UZ** seconded, and the motion passed.

President, Don N9NYX opened the meeting with introductions.

Vice President, **Peter KB9KZO** was not present. **Peter N9HDW** gave a presentation on the club event in May for the Scout-O-Rama at Cantigny Park in Winfield on Saturday May 10 from 9 AM to 4 PM. We would demonstrate amateur radio at the event.

Treasurer, **Ken N9HQ** informed membership present that the balance in checking was \$5,530.00 and balance in money market was \$23,346.51. The club made about \$2500 at the 2008 WCRA hamfest. The St. Charles sales tax has not been paid at this time from that amount.

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

Secretary, **Todd KC9HKN** We had 15 attend the February meeting. A big welcome goes to Al Lewek for visiting our monthly meeting. Please mail club dues for 2008 to the club mail box.

Hamletter, Don N9NYX asked everyone that if you're not getting the monthly Hamletter please verify your email address with him. The hamletter can always use your articles, or any item of interest to be put in the hamletter.

RAB, **Doug W9NJM** informed the membership that the club 440 is down, the receive side of the radio works but the transmitter has limited output. No ETA of repair at this time.

Public Service, **Steve N9OA** reported that we will need volunteers on April 27, for the Special Olympics from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM in Naperville. On May 4, for the MS Walk-a-Thon from 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM. If you are interested in helping out please let Steve N9OA know if you can help out.

Field Day, **Dale NJ9E** asked for a co-chairman for field day.

Web Page, **Tom N9WBW** asked that club events need to be emailed to him so they can be put up on the web site. A member's only web area on the club site has been made. Your club dues for 2008 will need to be current to access this part of the site.

Membership, A reminder to everyone the regular WCRA 2008 membership club dues are due at this time.

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

Announcements: The WCRA club board member elections will be held at the April meeting. Don N9NYX did an overview of the club positions that will be voted on, Club President, Custodian, and Secretary.

New Business, **Mark W9UZ** informed the members present about a mast that was donated for the club trailer for a tri-band antenna.

Don N9NYX motioned to adjourn, Steve N9OA seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2000.

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.

April 4th

May 2nd

June 6th

July 11th

August 1st

September 5th

October 3rd

November 7th

December 5th

Mark your calendars.

The following is a list of the WCRA Special Events that the Club is supporting. If you have an interest in any or all of these events please contact the WCRA Special Events Coordinator Steve, N9OA.

Special Olympics	April 27th	7 AM to 4 PM
MS Walk	May 4th	7 AM to 2 PM
Wheaton July 4th Parade	July 4th	7 AM to 2 P
Glendale Heights Parade	August 23 or 30	TBA

APRIL QST HERALDS DXCC NEWS!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

LOOKING FOR NEW DXCC ENTRIES – THERE ARE MORE OF THEM NOW!

If you're looking for more notches in your DXCC pistol, you've a new one to make the task easier. Martti Laine, OH2BH, guest editor of the "How's DX?" column on page 89, gives you the scoop on St Barthelemy in the Caribbean (FJ). You'll enjoy the color photos and checking out the website at www.saint-barths.com.

SCARBOROUGH REEF DXpedition COMBAT REPORT – A ROUGH DEAL

What 16 hams will go through to make 45,820 QSOs from an uninhabited coral reef in the middle of the South China Sea. Five years in the planning involving the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs and the government of the Philippines, the story of the adventure makes exciting reading. It is on pages 51 through 54, and the photos on the cover of the issue make it easy to understand the hardships encountered.

FIELD DAY THEME SELECTED ----“RIDE THE WAVES”

On Page 59 you can read about the 2008 Field Day rules and see the logo that will appear on t-shirts and other merchandise. The Field Day Packet is available from ARRL, and the time to order is NOW. Orders must be in by June 13th.

ALL ABOUT SOUND WAVES AND MICROPHONES

If you've wondered why the slots in microphone cases are normally horizontal, Steven Katz, N8WL has the answer. His knowledge of sound waves makes the article interesting and will help you make better phone contacts, and might even improve your conversational ability! Look for it on page 58 and 59, along with some great photos of old microphones.

LOOK OUT FOR THAT LIGHTNING—IT MIGHT STRIKE YOUR HOUSE

Larry Scheff, W4QEJ, presents Part 2 of his series on Lightning on page 30-34. This issue's chapter is on what happens inside your home when you get a hit, and particularly how to protect your precious equipment. Take his suggestions on how not to let your stuff get fried.

RADIO SPORT LIVES –THIS MONTH IN CONTESTING REPORT

Five exciting pages of stories about contesting, including a rundown on "Straight Key Night 2008". No matter what kind of a contest you're seeking—you'll find it here! Sean Kutzko, KX9X, is working hard at making this a great resource for hams. His "The Shallow End of the Pool" article gives five hints on how to "get your feet wet".

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Membership Application

P.O. Box QSL, Wheaton, Illinois 60189

	Dues
Full Member	\$26
Student/Senior Citizen	\$13
Associate (No License)	\$13
Club Badge	\$7

Office Use Only
Year Amt Paid
Check Cash
New Renew
Membership Type Full Associate
Student Sr Citizen
Family:
Full member call sign:

Name on Badge.....

Name _____ Call Sign _____
License Class _____ Expiration Date _____
Address _____ Apartment # _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone: Home (_____) _____ Business (_____) _____
EMAIL Address _____

ARRL Member Yes OR No
(Please Circle One)

Sponsor (new members only) _____

WHAT CLUB EVENTS WILL YOU VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES FOR?

Please circle those which you might be interested in working or serving as a Committee Member

HAMFEST (January) FIELD DAY (June) VE TESTING JULY 4TH PARADE

PICNIC (July) CHRISTMAS PARTY TRAINING MEMBER RETENTION

ASSISTANCE (Elmer) BIKE-A-THON PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

OTHER: _____

COMMENTS _____

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

CLUB SALE

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

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 APRIL



ARNIS

K9OQN

JOHN

WA9YZL

ANNE

WM9L

MARTY

N9NTM

DON

N9NYX

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.

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- 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 this month will be TBA. Club elections will be held for President, VP, Sec., and Custodian.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for May.
- 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 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 April 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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P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
eMail: donlin@xnet.com

First Class Mail

