

# HAMLETTER

## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
 Issue 538      Founded 1948      June 2008



# SCOUT-O-RAMA 2008 AT CANTIGNY WITH WCRA



Pictures by Don, N9NYX



SPRIT



**WCRA Staff**

**Electe d Office rs**

President	Mark ,	W9UZ
Vice President	John ,	N9NA
Secretary	Todd ,	KC9HKN
Treasurer	Ken ,	N9HQ
Custodian	Bob ,	W9BK

**Vol untee r Com mitt ee Chairs**

Club Call Trustee	Tom ,	N9CBA
Christm as Party	Ruth ,	KA9RZG
Club Awards	John ,	N9MWF
Elmer/Know-Code	Charlie ,	WB9SGD
Field Day	Dale ,	NJ9E
Hamfest	John ,	WT9Y
Refreshments	Peter ,	KB9KZO
Membership		
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 l: Marty
KA9RCC		

**WCRA Repe aters**

145 .390 / 144.7 90	103.5 (1A) or 107 .2(1B)	PL Encode/Decode
224 .140 /222 .540	Carrier 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  
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**From the President's Gavel**  
by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

**President's Column, June 2008**

The Communications Support Unit will be in the parking lot Friday evening before the meeting. The progress is show, but sure. It is shaping up well. More will be done by Field Day. Several of us will be cleaning out the storage locker earlier on Friday. The contents will be on display. Let's keep what we want and get rid of the rest, so we don't have to keep on paying the approximate \$100 per month.

Are we lucky, or what? 7 am Sunday morning, the day after. Heaven's have opened up. If the weather had been like this on Scout-O-Rama, it would have been a disaster. I doubt half the people would have shown up, but, then again, Scouts have a strong resolve, so maybe it wouldn't have made much difference.

From a scouting standpoint, I would say the event was a big success. From trying to interest some of these young people into our hobby, the results were disappointing, but, we need to keep trying. Gradually, if we continue to participate in these events, I am sure there will be new prospects – both for the hobby and our club.

Club participation was at an all time high, as was the enthusiasm.

Looking at SOR from a different standpoint, I would call this a "warm up" for Field Day.

Let us all continue to participate in these, and more public service events, helping to make our club stronger.

Mark Potter, W9UZ

# WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr  
KC9HKN  
WCRA  
Secretary



## WCRA Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2008

President, **Mark W9UZ** called the meeting to order at 1930. Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by **Tom N9WBW**, **Jim W9HDX** seconded, and the motion passed.

President, **Mark W9UZ** opened the meeting with introductions. Board members gave a little history on how they got into amateur radio. **Mark W9UZ** talked about

old club programs that have been given in the past and that the club needs new programs for the future. Membership present was asked what program topics they would like to hear about.

Vice President, **John N9NA** informed the membership present that the evening's program will be given by **Dick KB9IDU** on the scout merit badge. **Kurt KB9RTO** was voted into membership.

Treasurer, **Ken N9HQ** informed membership present that the balance in checking was \$3,360.29 and balance in money market was \$23,365.67. The sales tax for the 2008 WCRA hamfest has still not been paid to St. Charles at this time. We are still waiting on paperwork from the city.

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

Secretary, **Todd KC9HKN** we had 23 attend the May meeting. A big welcome goes to **Al W9NXX** for visiting our monthly meeting. Please mail club dues for 2008 to the club mail box. If you would like a 2008 WCRA membership card please let me know.

Hamletter, **Don N9NYX**, not present this evening.

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. **Kurt KB9RTO** asked if the club 2 meter machine will be moved back to the College of DuPage. There is no update on, or when the club 2 meter machine would be moved back to the College of DuPage or other location at this time.

Public Service, **Steve N9OA** reported that we will need volunteers on May 4, for the MS Walk-a-Thon from 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM, the 4th of July Wheaton Parade, and Glendale Heights Parade. If you are interested in helping out please let **Steve N9OA** know if you can help out.

Hamfest, **John WT9Y** reported that the club is looking at new locations for the 2009 WCRA hamfest.

Field Day, **Dale NJ9E** announced that **Steve N9OA** will act as co-chairman for field day. Field Day will be at Panfish Park in Glen Ellyn, June 28 and 29. **Jim W9DHX** sent in letter to Glen Ellyn for approval to use Panfish Park.

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.

Trailer CSU, Mark W9UZ reported that an antenna box has been installed on roof with a connection to the inside to radios and some inside work has been done. There is a work party scheduled for May 3 to sort out what is in our storage unit and put some of it in the trailer.

Motion to accept reports by Kurt KB9RTO, **Mary KC9IJO** seconded, and the motion passed.

New Business, Membership asked if the antenna coax and 220 antenna located at the College of DuPage should be moved. Doug W9NJM informed the membership the RAB would work on this issue.

Old Business, **Peter N9HDW** informed the membership there will be a meeting to finish up last minute items with the Scout-O-Rama event.

John WT9Y motioned to adjourn, Jim W9DHX seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2130.

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## 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.

**June 6th**

**July 11th**

**August 1st**

**September 5th**

**October 3rd**

**November 7th**

**December 5th**

**Mark your calendars.**

# QST FOR JUNE – FIELD DAY JEWEL

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **TWO SPECIAL INSERTS ON 2008 FIELD DAY!**

Editors went all out this month to prepare us for Field Day; there are two inserts to get us in the mood for the annual event on June 28-29. No. 1 is a clever 8-page tear-out near the issue's center called "ARRL Field Day Cookbook". Pictures and copy give you tips on how to score in 2008, plus some actual food recipes for healthy eating on the FD site. Also included is a handy US/Canada ARRL Section Abbreviation List. Every station can use one of those!

The second insert is a fold-out section near the front of the book with five "Hints and Tips" columns to speed you to success. Also you'll find some good wishes from advertisers to guide your shopping.

## **COLORFUL, SLEEK AND SUPER STABLE—NEW GENERATORS REVIEWED**

If you've ever longed for independence from conventional power sources, here are five new portable power generators you can pick up and carry with you to the field. They are furnished in highly visible reds, yellows and blue colors to add sparkle to the green landscape. Kirk Kleinschmidt, NT0Z is the author of the article on pages 45-46.

## **“LOOK AT YOUR SIGNAL—IT MAY AMAZE YOU”**

John Stanley, K4ERO, discusses how looking at signals can improve your ability to listen to them. On pages 35-38 he gives you a rundown on Spectrum Analyzer use and the techniques. John is an MIT graduate who goes a long way to cover the subject.

## **GOING MOBILE IN SOMEONE ELSE'S VEHICLE—ARE YOU KIDDING?**

If you are an ARES volunteer and you get assigned to a vehicle without a radio—what happens to the mobile communications? George Weber, KA0BSA, had that challenge and how he solved it makes for interesting reading on pages 74-75 of this issue. George takes you step-by-step through his answer to the challenge. As the call would indicate, he's a veteran Boy Scout leader and is active in ARES in his home state of Colorado.

## **STILL DREAMING ABOUT A HIGH POWER SIGNAL? GET A LINEAR AMP**

Product Review Editor Mark Wilson, K1RO, reviews Tokyo Hy-Power's HL-1.2KFX Linear Amp. He gives it good marks for 750-W solid state power for 160 to 10. The article starts on page 49.

## **AN OLD TOPIC – “RECRUITING NEW HAMS” –AND A NEW IDEA**

Albert Moreschi, AG4BV, had a unique idea to get more hams for the Jupiter (FL) Tequesta Repeater Group. We could take a lesson from his experience in delivering 118 new hams. See how he did it on pages 69-70 of this issue.

# BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT:

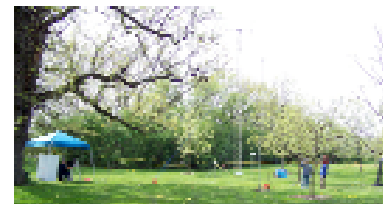
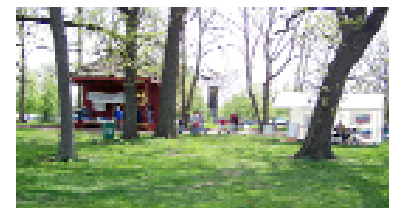
The Communications Support Unit will be at the meeting Friday evening by 7pm with most of the items from the storage locker. The purpose is two-fold. One - to see what to keep and get rid of, so we can end our \$100 monthly cost and to show members the progress of the CSU construction. The main focus of the meeting will still be Dale's presentation on Field Day.

All committee Chairman have been asked to limit their reports to 5 minutes, with a 10 minute maximum.

Mark



Pictures by Peter, N9HDW





WCRA members  
with the new  
CSU supporting  
the MS walk in  
May.

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.

Wheaton July 4th Parade	July 4th	7 AM to 2 P
Glendale Heights Parade	August 23 or 30	TBA

# Field Day

## June 28-29, 2008



Field Day is approaching. Come to the June meeting of the WCRA and help us plan this year's event.



This year we will deploy our new CSU  
(Communication Support Unit)  
for the 1st Field Day Test

Contact Dale Nj9E or Steve N9OA



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



DENNIS  
RUTH

KE9VG  
KA9RZG

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.



Pictures submitted by Peter, N9HDW

## JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 3rd: Club breakfast every Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- 5th: 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.
- 6th: 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 Field Day.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for July.
- 26th: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm. Go to the club VEC 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 June 6th, 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**

