

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 Contro 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
This publica tion uses QuarkXPress 6.52 and Photoshop CS3



From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

President's Column July 2008

Field Day 2008 is now behind us. It was a successful event for the "hearty souls" that participated. The weather was mixed with a heavy shower on Saturday late afternoon, fortunately, after we had set up. N9VR, Bob, did his usual "thing" with his fishing rod. Peter, N9HDW had it down "pat" conveying his 40' tower to and from FD on top of the CSU, as he had done this earlier at Scout-O-Rama. I have not seen the logs, but I think 40 CW with John, N9NA, Victor, AJ9M and Mark, W9UZ operating, had the most contacts (360) but not necessarily the most points. We will hear the details from Dale , NJ9E, our FD Chairman and Steve, N9OA his Co-Chairman as well as John, N9MWF, our CT guru. A donation of \$10 was received from a visitor and his son after a number of club members explained what we do. The generators worked fine, stopping for fuel even less than anticipated. Our CSU housed an HF rig and VHF and UHF rigs. It sure is nice to have most of our "stuff" in one location.

Technologically, the CSU is coming along nicely as seen on FD and the July 4th parade. Joe, N9WRO now has a 5" hole saw for drilling a hole on top for the pneumatic mast soon.

The July 4th parade has just been completed. Public Service Coordinator N9OA will tell you about it.

John, N9NA, our Program Chairman and VP has gotten an excellent speaker for VHF and UHF Contesting

for the July meeting.

Our Hamfest Chairman, WT9Y, John has some interesting news for us.

NOTE: NOTE: The meeting room has been changed for July 11. It will be in the Sanctuary Hall instead of our usual place(Stewart Hall). I don't know where it is either, but we can find it when we get there.

Mark Potter, W9UZ
President

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr
KC9HKN
WCRA
Secretary



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2008

Meeting was called to order at the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton at 7:35 PM, June 6, 2008 by the president, Mr. Mark Potter, W9UZ. The president presented the Board of Directors and asked all in attendance to identify themselves and sign the attendance log. Nineteen individuals signed the attendance log.

The president announced that his family has been enhanced with the acquisition of a new baby Rottweiler dog. There were no further announcements.

The vice president announced that the nights' program was the preparations for this year's ARRL Field Day event at the Pan Fish Park in Glen Ellyn. Further planned programs include a presentation by an executive of the Northrop-Grumman Company, Mr. William S. McConnell, N9US and Mr. Richard Isely, W9GIG, the Division Director of the ARRL.

No secretary's report was available due to the absence of the secretary. (These minutes submitted by John, N9NA.)

No treasurer's report was available due to the absence of the treasurer.

John Faber, WT9Y, the Hamfest committee chairman, announced that that the Kane County fair grounds may be available for the next hamfest and he is in discussions concerning the arrangements.

Steve Peterson, N9OA, the public service chairman presented the current event list including the Walk for Rosie on June 14 and the July 4th Wheaton parade and invited all to participate.

Doug Totel, W9NJM, the repeater chairman reported that the UHF has been sent off to ICOM for repair. He also noted that the committee is undertaking a search for new repeater sites. It appears that the College of DuPage is not an alternative at present.

Don Motz, N9NYX, the Hamletter chairman (and official club photographer) pleaded for more Hamletter articles and pictures. He requested an updated membership list to confirm all email and street addresses.

John Cheney, N9MWF, the Communications Support Unit chairman, brought us up-to-date concerning the progress on the unit and requested funding for additional antennas. Peter Richey, N9HDW, inquired as to the adequacy of the insurance on the unit since it much more has been invested in the equipment since its acceptance from the manufacturer. Mark Potter, the president assured Peter that the insurance coverage was adequate, but would be reviewed with the insurance agent to confirm the coverage.

A motion was made and seconded by Dick Cole and Peter Richey respectively to accept the minutes as published in the Hamletter. The motion was approved by the membership.

Under new business Peter Richey, N9HDW, reported on the successful Scout-O-Rama and conveyed the scout leadership thanks to all participants.

During the Field Day planning discussion an appropriation of \$850 was approved for the event. The Field Day plans will feature Dale Kwarta, NJ9E, as the 20 meter SSB captain; John Siepmann, N9NA as the cw team captain with significant support from Mark Potter, W9UZ and Victor Kartashov, AJ9M; Jim Ward, W9DHX education and public relations; John Faber, WT9Y, running 80/40 meter SSB and maybe some PSK; and John Cheney, N9MWF, for administration and publicity.

On a motion by Steve Peterson, N9OA, seconded by Jim Ward, W9DHX, and approved by the membership the meeting was adjourned.

More Field Day Pictures

Pictures provided by Mark, W9UZ, Dale, NJ9E, Jim, W9DHX, Don, N9NYX and others I may have missed. Thank you.



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.

July 11th

August 1st

September 5th

October 3rd

November 7th

December 5th

Mark your calendars.

QST FOR JULY-DAYTON WRAPPED UP

BY JIM WARD, W9DHX

ANOTHER BIG YEAR FOR THE “HAMVENTION”

This month's issue will convince you that it is more than a “hamfest” and four pages tell you all the special things that happened. It begins on page 46 and includes a report of the “Donors Reception” for two “W9” Heavy hitters in the contribution department. They were inducted into the Maxim Society.

QST also has a convenient list of all the “new products” on parade, all the way from ICOM's new IC-7200 HF Transceiver to a new microphone from Heil.

DC COURT OF APPEALS SIDES WITH THE ARRL ON BPL

Some more “nails in the coffin” of BPL were pounded by the gavel of the U.S. Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. A three-judge court panel ruled that the FCC had failed to comply with the rules by not fully disclosing for public comment the staff studies on which it relied. ARRL's “Gotcha” once again put FCC's feet to the fire. The power line transmission system, a pet project of the FCC, hasn't done well and now looks like a “non-issue.” The story is on page 57.

HEY GIRLS-- CHECK OUT THOSE EARLY “YLS”

Page 95 takes us back to the year 1923. Harold A. Beale, Jr., a Philadelphian, constructed an advanced level vacuum tube transmitter and receiver layout. His call was 3ZO, and he recruited a young lady to be his “telegraph operator.” The applicant was A. Bertha Hilton, and she was duly licensed as 3KO. You'll enjoy the article and seeing her “twenties” hairstyle in the shots of her at the operating position with a firm hand on the straight key!

RECYCLE YOUR OLD EQUIPMENT BOXES

Here's a “how-to” article -- three pages beginning on page 30-- on how to use old boxes in new building projects. Power stations, test sets, and meter boxes can be re-cycled using the hints from Wayne Yoshida, KH6WZ. Wayne shows you how to fill those pesky holes with automotive body filler compound.

MAKE YOUR OWN QSL CARDS

“QSL Maker” is on the web for FREE! Read all about it on Page 68, or you can download a copy yourself. Neither of the sites printed in the article will work; after the magazine went to press things changed. A phone call to the Author, David Rabin, W9PH, found a site that WILL work which is detailed on another page of the Hamletter.

If you want microperfed card stock, enterprising ham W7NN offers it at www.hamstuff.com. The QSL program was designed by WB8RCR, John McDonough.

CLASSY QSL CARDS FOR FREE!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

When I spotted the article on Page 68 of this month's QST on making your own QSL cards, I did a mental flip-flop. What a great idea for someone to give away a program to "do it yourself." I'd always admired the photo cards--pictures of shacks, scenery native to the operator's home base, or Wayne Kiser, KF9JC's card of a deer visiting his front yard. Our club W9CCU card of the long-gone truck was another beauty.

I called the author of the article, David Rabin, W9PH, to verify the link. He told me that between the time he had submitted the article and the time QST had arrived at my mail box, the two sites mentioned had both gone down. But he gave me one that would work, and here it is as long as you are running Windows XP:

<http://qslmaker.mi-nts.org/downloads/QSLmake24.zip>

For users of other operating systems, such as Linux, the link below will provide additional flexibility:

<http://qslmaker.mi-nts.org>

Now that I had all this information, I needed someone to try it out. The first thought was of the creator of the Escalade Camera Car that was the star of a previous Field Day--, Peter Richey, N9HDW.

He was half way through his QST, and just about to reach page 68, so when I gave him the challenge, he was ready. Back came the report: "Cool program! Last updated in 2002, but ran well on my Windows XP machine. Attached is a sample QSL card I made, using the program. It took me about 5 minutes and is very simple to use.

"I found out that my using the program was helped by reading Dave Rubin's article. It is well worth the time before you start," Peter added. "I hope that other hams can take advantage of the program."

David Rabin, the author, and the creator of the program, John McDonough, are to be congratulated for their generous sharing of their talents. Good luck with making your new QSL card!

Every once in a long while the editor is supplied with lots of material. This issue is one such occasion. I wish to thank all of you who have contributed items to make this issue an enjoyable read and viewing.

Editor

James Ward
893 Saddlewood Drive
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

W9DHX

Confirming QSO with	Date (Z)	UTC	Freq/2XMode	Pwr Out	Report

73, Jim

Tnx QSL Pse

Special Olympics Wrap-Up

Steve Peterson, N9OA, Public Service Coordinator

On behalf of Amy Kaylor and Sandy Hutchins; as well as my on my own behalf, I would like to extend a hearty "thank you" for a job well done at the NE Illinois Special Olympics Spring Games. Our staff was exceptional and performed their duties well. We were assisted this year by John Cheney, N9MWF; Janie Gallina, AE9JG; George Greene, NE9ET; Dale Kwart, NJ9E; Kurt Rubin, KB9RTO; Don Peterson, KB9UFS; and Mike Wilson, KC9KHT.

Amy has already confirmed that she would love to have our assistance this year.

Next weekend, May 4, we will be assisting with the MS Walk in Naperville. We still have volunteer opportunities available. Please call me at (630) 901-6962 if you are available to lend a hand.

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.

Glendale Heights Parade August 23 or 30 TBA

A NEW MID-WINTER HAMFEST LOCATION?

Kane County Fairgrounds is very close to opening a new exhibition center. The center offers 16,000 feet of exhibition space in each of two identical halls; 40 acres of parking; a conference room, which can be divided for VE testing and forums; and a banquet hall, which can utilize for club tables and a snack bar.

John, WT9Y and Mark, W9UZ, visited the new facility last Thursday afternoon. Mark took a number of pictures of the new facility, which are noted below:

Although the final details of the costs and contract have yet to be worked out, this facility will provide a more economical location than the previous location. One of the main exhibition halls is about 2/3rds the space, which we have currently utilized the past three years. This space will be supplemented with the banquet hall. VE testing will be located in the same facility on the second floor adjacent to the forum area, which will be able to serve a larger number of attendees than last year. The forum speakers will also not have to compete with the exhibition noise level.

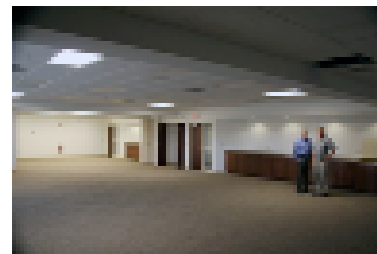
This new facility will provide us with new opportunities and challenges, which will be discussing over the next couple of months. I am looking forward to our 2009 Mid-Winter Hamfest and encourage your participation.



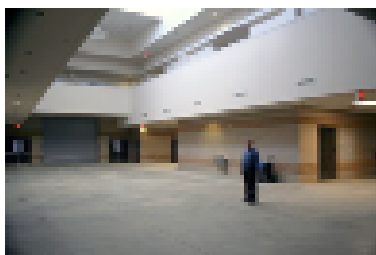
Close-up of the new complex



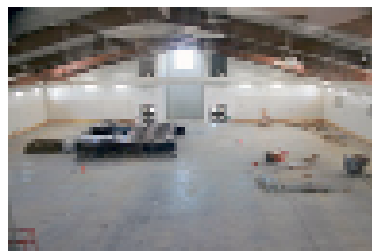
Ground level shot of one of the Exhibition Areas.



Conference Room area for forums and VE testing.



Banquet area for club tables and snack bar



View of one of the Exhibition Areas looking down from the second floor.

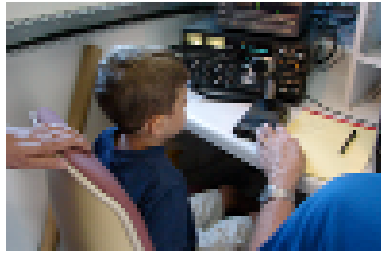
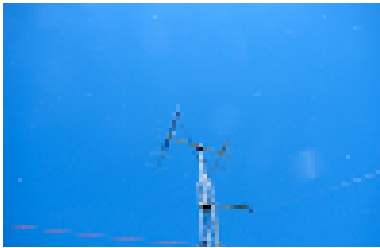
OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF JULY



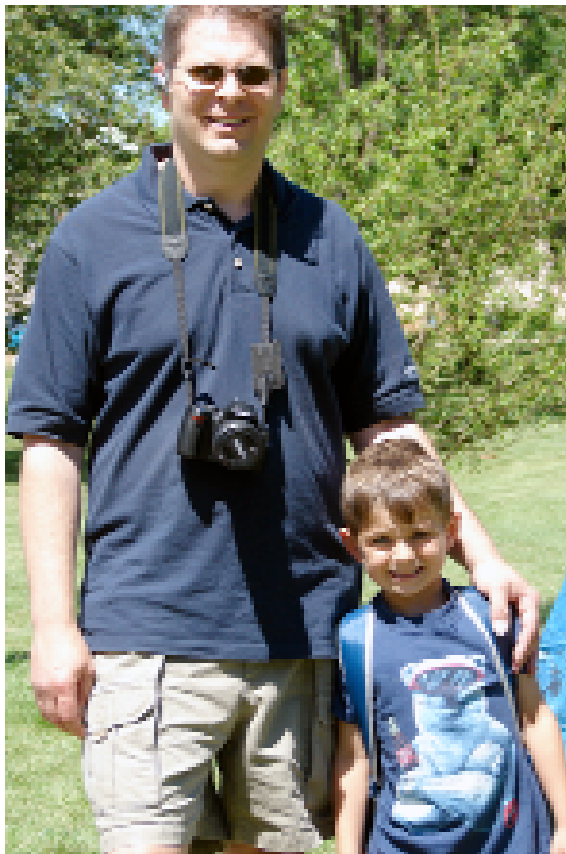
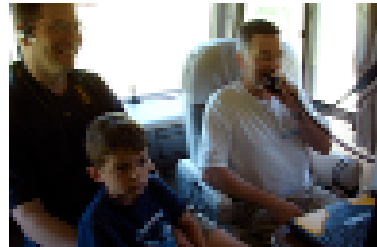
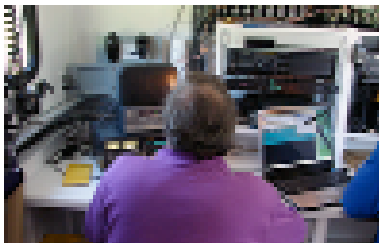
JOHN	N9MWF
CAROL	N6YL
BILL	W9WH
DAVID	W9AOK
DALE	NJ9E
DICK	KB9IDU

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.



More Field Day 2008 Pictures



Three Finger Salute Meets the 2 Finger Key and One Hand Mic

Ham fantasy - a spring day, clear skies, special event station, smorgasbord of ham modes and frequencies in use, old radios, new radios, DX contacts, visitors sampling ham-dom. Does it get much better?!

May 10, 2008, the efforts of 23 WCRA volunteers created a real-life version of that ham dream by presenting an all-day amateur radio demonstration at the Three Fires Council of the Boy Scouts of America's Scout-O-Rama held at Cantigny Park in far western Wheaton. The group presented HF SSB and CW, IRLP, satellite VHF/UHF, Local VHF including FM repeater and simplex, D-Star (digital voice and data), and Radio Merit Badge. It was quite like an enhanced Field Day setup. New signage was debuted from the creative talents of Steve N9OA and Dale, NJ9E, including individual station signs complete with operator names and call signs, and a 12 ft Club banner. These really added to the professional impression the club made on the visitors, who ranged in age from 6 years old (Tiger Cubs) to 80 yrs young (grandparents being towed by Cub and Boy Scouts). The amateur radio demonstration was one of 123 demonstrations the scouts sponsored to show the public what Scouting in America has been involved in the a part 100 years as they approach their centennial celebration in 2010.

We had many visitors stream through our "booth" on their way to and from archery and rifle shooting. Only about 5 percent of those "streaming" through stopped to sample the ham "feast." My view is that has to a lot with the location we picked which had commercial power and lots of trees for stringing dipole wire antennae, but was far from the main demonstration midway. No other outdoor site in the SOR had commercial power, but more significantly the choice of trees. Something to consider for future demonstrations. The satellite station did make use of a tilt-up 40 foot tower to support the dual yagi 2m and 70 cm beams. (Would have seemed a bit challenging to mount an azimuth+elevation rotor in a tree!)

The contacts came for all over the country and some DX as well as Internet Linking Protocol and D-Star networking which had world wide contact opportunities. We even "worked" Bill K6BSA who presented the "Ham Radio and Boy Scouts" Forum later the next week at the Dayton Hamvention.

Dick KB9IDU did an outstanding job organizing promotion of Radio Merit Badge and even secured a registered BSA Radio Merit Badge Counselor to be on site for the day! He also organized a scavenger hunt for youthful visitors to search throughout our stations looking for radio components such as switches, diodes, mics, connectors -very creative and a shrewd way to pique the interest more deeply in an unobtrusive way!

We had a couple of welcome information tables, one on the main band shell, and another at our Communication Support Unit which was out for the weekend in full display. Literature about amateur radio, ham radio in scouting, and WCRA was provided as well as QST magazines for the public to take.

We had several units inquire about the possibility of hosting a Radio Merit Badge clinic and will be looking into that possibility with the Radio Merit Badge counselor, Steve Berg WA9JML (DeKalb). Also, there were several inquiries about JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) which occurs annually worldwide in October, allowing scouts to talk to scouts via amateur radio for a whole weekend. Definitely something in which the club should consider participating this fall.

Oh, the article's title: Boy Scouts use a three finger salute, a CW keyist uses a 2 finger "salute" on the typical paddle, and a common manner to hold a voice microphone in our hobby is one handed. All three met in our demo at the SOR.

A list follows of the club volunteers that helped to make this demonstration First Class.

73 es TNX de N9HDW,
Peter

WCRA 2008 SOR Volunteers: KA3HSW, W9UZ, AJ9M, NV9R, N9NA, N9OA, NJ9E, KA0DSF, KB9IDU, N9NYX, W9NJM, N9MWF, W3MDM, WT9Y, WA9E, NE9ET, K9WH, W9BK, N9HDW.

Youth hosts: Chris Colten (T. 46 Glen Ellyn), Melissa Carter (Dick KB9IDU's granddaughter)

JULY 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.
- 11th: 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 on VHF and UHF contesting.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for July.
- 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 July 11th, 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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eMail: donlin@xnet.com

First Class Mail

