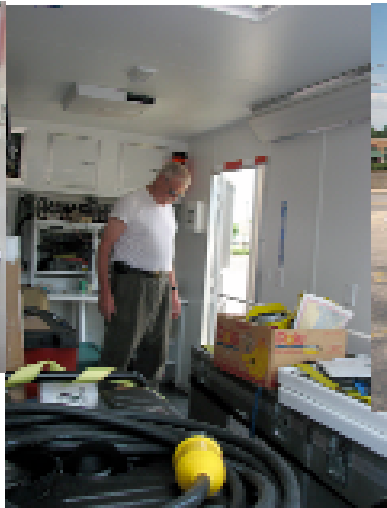
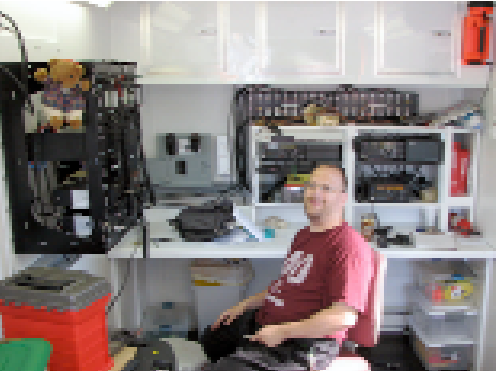


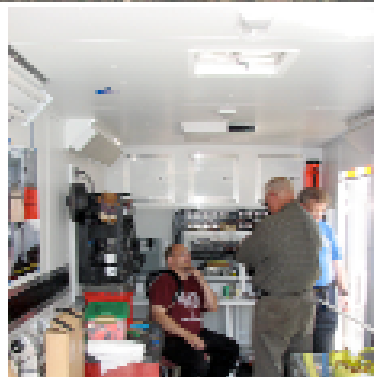
# HAMLETTER

**CELEBRATING 60 YEARS**  
Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
Issue 540      Founded 1948      August 2008



## WHEATON 4th of JULY PARADE IS SERVED BY THE NEW WCRA COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT UNIT



Pictures by Larry, KA9KDC



### WCRA Staff

#### Electe d Office rs

President Mark , W9UZ  
Vice President John , N9NA  
Secretary  
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  
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 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 /(-1.600) Net Control: Marty  
KA9RCC

#### WCRA Repeaters

145.390 / 144.790 103.5 (1A) or 107.2(1B) PL Encode/Decode  
224.140 /222.540 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

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This publication uses QuarkXPress 6.52 and Photoshop CS3



## From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

### President's Column August 2008

Good news and bad news. Bad news first. Todd Carr, our Secretary for over 2 years, has resigned to pursue his new career in the health care field. Todd did an outstanding job during his tenure. We wish him well.

The good news is that the club has two new members, who are Michael Pinder, N9MXD and Michael Wiley, KC9NJI, who both live in West Chicago. Please join me in welcoming them at the August meeting.

John Siepmann, N9NA, our Vice President and Program Chairman reports that Don Backys, K9UQN will be our speaker on the 1st of August. Don is a retired Electrical Engineer having spent many years with Motorola. He will speak on the design and implementation of 9-1-1 Public Safety Systems.

I met with the Repeater Administrative Board a short time ago. W9NJM, Doug Total, has left the board, as his term has expired. He has been replaced by Don Motz, N9NYX who will be the new Chairman. Many items were discussed over a two hour period. There are still a number of issues as to where to locate the 2 meter repeater. They are being actively pursued. Some issues are political and, as you know, they cannot be rushed. Many thanks to Larry Schroeder for the temporary home. Also many thanks to Doug Total who has spent many hours on repeater issues. I am sure Doug will be in the background. The subject of Repeaters is a bit on the complicated side, to say the least.

**AFTER THE MEETINGS:** Please "police up" the area. The peanuts were enjoyed by all after the last meeting, but some of them were left squashed on the floor. We don't want to wear out our welcome, so let's keep it neat when we exit.

**SPEAKERS ARE NEEDED.** Let us hear from you. What do you want to hear? Who do you want to hear? Give us a speaker name, an idea or a Company and we will "go after" it, or them. We are still pursuing the ideas you gave us from the past, but **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Mark Potter, W9UZ, President

**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
Meeting Minutes – July 11, 2008**

**WCRA  
Meeting  
Minutes**

WCRA  
Secretary

Meeting was called to order at the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton at 7:35 PM, July 11, 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. Twenty one members and visitors signed the attendance log.

The president announced that the business meeting would be held after the presentation. The presentation was given by Mr. **Mark Thomas of Wauconda** on Vhf and Uhf contesting complete with antennas, rigs and roving. A stimulating presentation which got many members interested again in Vhf and Uhf operations.

A motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting of June 6 was made by Mr. **Steve Peterson, N9OA**, and seconded by Mr. **John Cheney, N9MWF**. The motion was approved by the members with no discussion.

Mr. **Ken Kwasniewski, N9HQ**, gave the treasurer's report and noted that club bills have been paid to date.

The president, Mr. Mark Potter, W9UZ, asked whether there were any announcements. Messrs. **Mike Schultz, W9MJS** and Mr. **Mark Thompson, WB9QZB** were recognized and they announced the Chicago Digital Communications Conference to be held at the Holiday Inn in Elk Grove Village on September 26th through the 28th this year. It will be a three day conference and the details are available at [www.tapr.org/dcc](http://www.tapr.org/dcc). The conference is organized by the DuPage County Encomm Repeater Association, see [www.W9DPA.org](http://www.W9DPA.org).

New members of the WCRA were introduced: KC9NJI, Mr. **Michael Wiley** of West Chicago, IL and N9NXD, Mr. **Joseph Mabus** of Prospect Heights, IL. A motion was made by Mr. Steve Peterson, N9OA, and seconded by Mr. **John Faber, WT9Y** to approve the persons as members of the WCRA. After limited discussion the members approved the motion.

Mr. **Peter Richey, N9HDW**, announced the Boy Scouts of America has scheduled the Jamboree on the Air, which will be a world wide event on October 18 and 19, 2008. All club members are invited and encourage to participate in the event. More details of the event can be found at the web site: [www.scout.org/jota](http://www.scout.org/jota) where a circular can be downloaded providing the frequencies.

Mr. **Bob Kruger, W9BK** and club custodian announced that the rented storage area has now been vacated and closed out.

Mr. John Faber, WY9Y, Hamfest Chairman announced that he is closing in on a contract with the Kane County Fair grounds for usage of their space for the next Hamfest.

Mr. Steve Peterson, N9OA, Public Service Chair announced that the Walk for Rosie and Wheaton Fourth of July Parade were successful events for the WCRA. He expects to produce a summary of the club's public service events during the past year in the near future.

Mr. **Dale Kwarte, NJ9E**, announced that the club's participation in the annual Field Day operation was successful and finances were under budget. The club operated five stations and the CW station logged the greatest number of contacts with 361. Mr. John Cheney, N9MWF requested that some persons operating the 20 ssb

station would like the opportunity to operate that station on CW when appropriate next year.

Mr. **Tom Negele, N9WBW** requested a copy of the club roster so that he could post it on the club's web site, [www.W9CCU.org](http://www.W9CCU.org).

Mr. John Cheney, N9MWF, announced that the club communications support unit generator provided sixteen hours of continuous power to the Field Day stations –a test of the endurance and reliability of the new generator and test of it's fuel capacity.

Mr. Mark Potter the club president sadly announced the resignation of Mr. **Todd Carr, KC9HKN**, as the club secretary at the beginning of this meeting. The club thanks Todd for his contributions and looks forward to his continued participation in club activities.

On a motion by Mr. Don Motz, N9NYX and seconded by Mr. Steve Peterson, N9OA, to adjourn the meeting was approved by the membership and the meeting was adjourned.

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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.

**August 1st**

**September 5th**

**October 3rd**

**November 7th**

**December 5th**

**Mark your calendars.**

# **AUGUST QST ARRIVES- GOOD NEWS!**

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **NO MORE SCRATCHED GARAGE DOORS – A REMOTE LOWERING DEVICE!**

It's "Down Periscope" for that mobile antenna, with a new idea from K8JPM, Bob Booher. Bob has struggled with the problem for 18 years of HF mobiling. Then he had the bright idea to use an Alliance Rotor "horizontally" to raise and lower his 12 foot high antenna to fit through a 7 foot door. Read the nicely written story of this project on pages 41 and 42 of this month's issue.

## **MEASURE YOUR ANTENNA'S EFFECTIVENESS –TWO NEW DEVICES**

Since your antenna is a major component of your on-air performance, we're always looking for devices to make it more effective. QST's Technical Editor, Joel R. Hallas, has reviewed two new gadgets. One is called a "miniVNA Network and Antenna Analyzer." The other is made by RigExpert and is called the "AA-200 Antenna Analyzer". You can read about their capabilities to improve your radiation performance. on pages 43 through 47.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICE FOR THE "JALEPENO 100 MILE BIKE RIDE"**

Harlingen, Texas, is the site of the 18th Annual Endurance bike ride to benefit the local Boys and Girls Clubs. Five years ago, the "Fun-N-Sun" Radio Club was asked to provide emergency communications for the event. The Club has developed a training program that gives great service to the event, and pride to Club members, all of whom are residents of the "Fun-N-Sun RV Resort". The article is by Club Members Jim Cook, W9WKE, and Carolyn Ross, KE5HRP, on Page 59.

## **"DIGITAL VOICE FOR AMATEUR RADIO" – A DVD OF QUALITY**

Although it is on the subject of Amateur Radio, it is handled in a very professional manner, namely an explanation of Digital Voice. It is the product of a company founded by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ. Read the story behind this project on page 64 and you might want to buy a copy of the DVD (\$22 plus \$3 for S&H.)

## **HAMS COME TO THE RESCUE – ROUND UP OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Page 54 starts a review of members of the hobby who have come to the help of all kinds of disasters from Florida to California and Wisconsin to Colorado. Fires, tornados, hurricanes and floods have kept Emergency Services busy.

## **HISTORIC RADIO, OLD SHIPS, AND ZENITH CORPORATION**

Remember Commander Eugene McDonald, the eccentric CEO of Zenith? He's mixed up in this fascinating story of the Arctic exploration voyages of the Bowdoin, a wooden hull beauty that provided research on polar waters. See pages 95 and 96.



**Chicago**—“Your Kind of Town”  
for the 2008 ARRL/TAPR Digital  
Communications Conference

**September 26-28**

Chicago plays host to the largest gathering of Amateur Radio digital enthusiasts in the country. Make your reservations now for three days of education and camaraderie, including a Sunday seminar on Software Defined Radio by **Phil Harman, VK6APH**.

See the Digital Communications Conference site on the Web at [www.tapr.org/dcc/](http://www.tapr.org/dcc/) or call TAPR at **972-671-8277** to make your reservations today.



**The DCC is occurring in Elk Grove Village on September 26 - 28 and is the premiere annual national conference covering digital voice & data technologies & modes.**

**More information about the DCC is available at:  
<http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>**

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



KEITH  
JIM  
JAMES

KA9HPL  
W9DHX  
N9NWU

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.

## AUGUST 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 this month will be on the design and implementation of 9-1-1 Public Safety Systems.
- 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 August.
- 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 August 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

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**First Class Mail**

