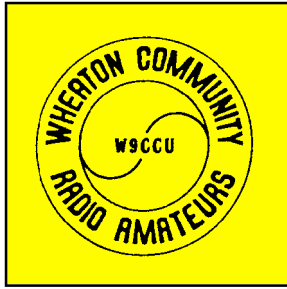


# HAMLETTER

## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
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WCRA'S RECENT PICNIC AT BLACKWELL FOREST PRESERVE CELEBRATING THE END OF SUMMER 2008. A FOXHUNT WAS HELD AFTER DINNER.



### WCRA Staff

#### Electe d Office rs

President	Mark ,	W9UZ
Vice President	John ,	N9NA
Secretary	Steve ,	N9OA
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
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 /(-1.600)	Net Control: Marty
KA9RCC		

#### WCRA Repe aters

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 publica tion uses QuarkXPress 6.52 and Photoshop CS3		



## From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

### President's Column October 2008

The weather was questionable all day long, but the optimists prevailed. The sun began to shine for our Picnic in September. About 30 members, wives and guests attended. KFC was the main entrée supplemented by some who brought delicious desserts. Badminton seemed to be popular among some members and their families. Tom, N9CBA, and his fellow fox hunters, kept a number of us entertained with his Fox Hunting adventures. It was hard enough to find the transmitters nearby. I can imagine how much fun it must be when the fox is well hidden 10 miles away! Next year, the picnic will go back to September, where we can enjoy more daylight.

The flooding caused much damage throughout DuPage County. OEM distributed around 65,000 sandbags! Cleanup is still not over. All of our Club OEM members spent many hours in the field and the EOC (emergency operations center). Don't forget the Club has a generator for any club member. It is located at Station One near the DuPage County Animal Control Center. One needs to call any OEM member to unlock the gate to get inside the County complex and open up the CSU (communications support unit).

A number of people saw ERNIE (emergency response, narcotics, interdiction, extraction) and BERT(backup emergency response team) vehicles last Saturday at the Sheriff's Safety Display at the DuPage County Fairgrounds. ERNIE is the green armored per-

sonnel carrier that was by the bank during the recent shooting incident in Wheaton. BERT is a blue humvee.

K9OZ, N9NA and W9UZ were among those who attended the annual W9DXCC Convention in Elk Grove Village recently. This is a "must" convention for those interested in DX. It is truly unbelievable what some DX'ers go through to put an "entity" on the air. One group even put up a wood structure on a rock in the ocean to support a complete station!

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## WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA  
WCRA  
Secretary



The September picnic at Blackwell was not a business meeting and therefore no minutes were taken.

### From The President's Gavel continued from Page 2

Read about the October meeting elsewhere in this Hamletter. If you did not get a notice from me about a week ago, please let me know.

Stay tuned for information on the Bingo (auction?) meeting in November and the Christmas Party in December.

Mark, W9UZ

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The October issue of QST had not arrived in the mail by presstime. We will publish October and November in next month's issue of the HamLetter.

**Our condolences go out to Harry Kamer, K9HK, and his family after the recent death of his father. His father war 94 and a World War II veteran who was awarded two Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart. The Greatest Generation is slipping away from us.**

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# Call Sign Bingo

At the November 7, 2008 meeting of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs the program for the evening will be Call Sign Bingo. This is in lieu of the usual annual auction. This year we have secured the esteemed services of Mssrs. Richey and Negele of WCRA fame to host our bingo to be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton. For this event each club member is requested to bring radio related items from his or her collection of "stuff" that can be given away as prizes in our bingo.

You can bring as many items as you wish. There will be no money exchanged at the bingo. When someone wins ("Gets a bingo"), s/he'll get to pick one item from the prizes the club members have brought to give away. You'll receive one bingo card for each item you bring so the more "prizes" you bring to give away, the more chances you'll have to win. (If you have no items to give as a prize, while you will not receive a bingo card to play, you can come for the fun and cheer on others.) If you have an item that is impractical to bring to the meeting, compose a card or page describing the item (with picture if appropriate), and the winner can make arrangements with you to transfer the prize at a future date.

Any unclaimed items at the end of the bingo go home with the person who brought them so please be a bit thoughtful in what you bring. Keep the items related to our hobby. So, for example, it's okay to bring a computer that could be used in a ham shack. It's not okay to bring an old car.

There is no limit to the value of the items you can bring. Please recognize that in that sense each prize equals just that - one prize. So one winner may get something inexpensive and the next may not. There is no promise of value other than what the winner ascribes to a prize.

If you want to add to the pre-bingo excitement, please forward a note of what you are bringing to our Web Master, Tom N9WBW, and he'll post it on our web site, w9ccu.org.

This should be a lot of fun and a great opportunity to clean out the junk box, straighten up the shack, purge the never started projects and even make a great impression on the other residents of your home, or even yourself.

Remember the old adage, "One person's discard is another's treasure."

Please refer any questions to Peter N9HDW and Tom N9WBW.



## 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.

**October 3rd**  
**November 7th**  
**December 5th**

Mark your calendars.



**Chief Lanny Russell  
City of DeKalb Fire Department**

Chief Russell will speak about the recent shooting incident on the campus of Northern Illinois University at the October membership meeting.

## Scout Jamboree on the Air - WCRA Open House

Please communicate to any Girl Scout troops, or Boy Scout Cub Packs, Scout Troops or Venture Crews that might have members interested in radio communications that the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs (WCRA) will be hosting a Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) open house in conjunction with the worldwide JOTA on Saturday October 18, 2008 in Wheaton at the First Presbyterian Church, 715 N. Carlton Ave from 10:30 AM - 2 PM. The church is located at the corner of Madison and Ellis streets in northwest Wheaton, IL.

Groups are encouraged to reserve a time slot in advance but walk-in participants are welcome especially for individuals and their families whose unit is not participating in JOTA.

JOTA is about scouts contacting scouts around the world via radio, and participating scouts will have the opportunity to talk to scouts far away, some in the USA and some in other countries. Typical conversations include topics such as what's scouting like in your country, what do you like about scouting, and comparative questions such as age, rank, etc.

For more information on JOTA in general, see:

[http://www.scout.org/en/information\\_events/events/jota/all\\_about\\_jota/what\\_is\\_jamboree\\_on\\_the\\_air\\_jota](http://www.scout.org/en/information_events/events/jota/all_about_jota/what_is_jamboree_on_the_air_jota)

<http://www.scout.org/jota>

<http://www.arrl.org/qst/2008/09/JOTA.pdf>

<http://www.scouting.org/international/highlights/22-218.aspx>

For leaders desiring more information or to reserve a time slot for their unit, please contact Peter Richey N9HDW ([jota@w9ccu.org](mailto:jota@w9ccu.org)). Reservations are encouraged to minimize waiting time. For planning purposes a typical conversation between a local scout and a foreign scout might last 3 minutes. So if a pack brings 10 boys, a half hour could easily be used and it would be wise to plan for a longer time to allow for radio links to be established and time to explain and answer questions.

If you, as a amateur radio operator, would like to help with the Open House, please contact Peter N9HDW.

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**Continued from page 7**

Have invited a troop or pack: \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ hope to soon

One more item. If you know of a contact at the local Girl Scout Council, please forward that to me so I can offer the same notification to area Girl Scouts through their council office. I have requested the same info through the BSA office, but have not gotten it yet so you may speed things along.

Thanks for sharing our hobby with the next generation and offering this opportunity to reach around the globe to scouts in other places.

73 de n9hdw,  
Peter

## Dear WCRA JOTA Volunteers,

Announcement of our JOTA open house has been published on the Three Fires Boy Scout Council web site. Email requests will come to me through [jota@w9ccu.org](mailto:jota@w9ccu.org), a new club email address setup by Tom N9WBW. Telephone requests will come through the club phone number 630-604-0157. Whomever checks the club phone number for messages, please forward any JOTA related ones to me.

Also, please consider having a dry run for our setup on Saturday 10/11/08 9 AM at the church. John N9NA has reserved

for us the two classrooms LL016 and LL017 for both JOTA saturday (10/18/08 9 AM - 3 PM) and the preceding

Saturday (10/11/08 9 AM - noon). I'm planning to go over there and practice my setup (radio, antenna, coax run, etc.)

and encourage each of you to join me so that JOTA Saturday goes smoothly.

Please let me know the following:

1. Can  Cannot  help with JOTA Open House 10/18/08.
2. If helping 10/18/08, what times:  AM till  PM
3. Can make 10/11/08 dry run:  yes  no
4. Will provide equipment for which station:
  - 20m SSB,
  - 40m SSB,
  - 80m SSB,
  - 2m IRLP,
  - Other (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
5. Willing to help in other ways (only, or in addition to above):
  - Signage
  - Setup (9 AM - 10:30 AM 10/18/08)
  - Teardown (2 PM - 3 PM 10/18/08)
  - Radio MB promotion
  - Host or Unit Guide (to assist with questions and guide troops or packs through the experience)
6. Do you want an official BSA JOTA patch?  yes  no.  
(I need to order them this week to have them by 10/18/08. I believe the cost is \$4, each, which is not yet funded by the club, but if interest is present, I will ask for or make a motion to get funding from the club. Failing that I'll be looking for contributions.)

If you are aware of other hams interesting in helping, from WCRA or other, please invite them and let me know.

If you have invited or plan to invite a troop (Girl or Boy Scout) or pack (Cub Scout) or Crew (Venture Scout), please let me know. Thanks for spreading the word. We are trying to get reservations in advance for times for such large groups so that wait time is minimized. I'm handling reservations so you are welcome to forward those requests to me.

**Continued on Page 6**



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



STEVE

N9OA

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.

## OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 2nd: 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.
- 3rd: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39. The retired De Kalb Fire Department Chief will speak about the recent shooting on the campus of Northern Illinois University.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for November.
- 23rd: 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 October 3rd, 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**

