



HAMLETTER

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 543 Founded 1948 November 2008



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Shack of the Month

**THE
FRONT
COVER
SEVEN
YEARS
AGO**



N9EF

Robert Mitiieri

QTH: Carol Stream

First licensed: 1971

Favorite rig: Yaesu FT-1000 MP Mk V

Favorite bands: 10 and 17

When Robert Mitiieri was a teenager in Brooklyn, his father brought home a ARRL handbook he had found in the subway. Robert was intrigued. Then he saw a house in the neighborhood with a big antenna. He knocked on the door and asked if a ham lived there. The next thing he knew he was in an elderly gentleman's basement shack,

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Mark, W9UZ
Vice President	John, N9NA
Secretary	Steve, N9OA
Treasurer	Ken, N9HQ
Custodian	Bob, W9BK

Volunteer Committee 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	John, N9NA
Membership	
Public Service	Steve, N9OA
VHF/HF Awards	John, N9MWF
Webmaster	Tom, N9WBW

Amateur License Staff

Training Classes	Jack, KA9HEL
Volunteer Exam.	Harry, K9HK

WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

Chairman	Don, N9NYX
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 Reprtr

HAMLETTER

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Photos	Larry, KA9KDC
Features	Jin, W9DHX
HAMLETTER	eMail address: donlin67@gmail.com

This publication uses QuarkXPress 6.52 and Photoshop CS3



From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN NOVEMBER 2008

The big night is approaching – CALL SIGN BINGO – WHITE ELEPHANT BINGO – call it what you want. Formerly, it was an Auction, but lack of halfway decent items caused this type of meeting to go downhill. Peter, N9HDW and Tom, N9WBW have put a lot of thought into a new idea, which is sure to go over well IF members rummage through their houses, attics, basements, garages, rental lockers, etc. I have some old items that have at least one inch of dust on them, but I think someone will find interest in them – some new in-the-box 4” Simpson analog meters (0-300 VAC and two 0-15 amps AC, originally purchased for a home generator panel), call books, and a Hallicrafters S-20 Sky Champion receiver in excellent physical condition. It lights up when plugged in, but “caveat emptor” after that. It was a gift from a customer about 20 years ago. You may think your “stuff” is junk, but someone else may consider it valuable.

JOTA was held at the Church a few Saturday's ago. Many thanks to Peter and Steve, who wore their old Scout shirts. It took a lot of effort on their parts. A number of Club members stopped in during the day.

The most exciting happening on the CSU is that a flat tire was changed, repaired by Steve, N9OA.

Our Hamfest Chairman, John, WT9Y is hard at work behind the scenes coordinating everything with the Kane County Fairgrounds. Mailing labels are being

prepared to send out in early January.

Still looking for Speaker ideas. Let John, our Vice President, N9NA know.

Winter is coming. Get your antenna work done NOW. Ain't no fun up there when the temperature is below zero. I just installed a “Slipp-Nott” on my TCX rotor. It is a heavy duty “grabber” and prevents slippage between the mast and the rotor plate.

See you at the auction.

WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA
WCRA
Secretary



Minutes of the general business Meeting for October 2008

Meeting held Friday, October 3, 2008, at First
Presbyterian Church in Wheaton Illinois.

In attendance:

Board: W9UZ, N9NA, N9OA, W9BK

Membership: KC9IJO, KA0DSF, KB9IDU, NJ9E,

WT9Y, W9TIE, WB9SGD, W9BK, N9DKO, W9DHX, KA9KDC, KA9RVS, NV9R, N9MWF, AJ9M,
W9NJM, K9OQN, N9NYX, WA9E

Guests: KC9KXP, Chief Lanny Russell (ret.)

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m., local time, by Mark Potter, W9UZ, president.

Motion to approve minutes (W9DHX, KC9IJO). Passed.

Vice President's comments (N9NA) Tonight's program was conducted by Lanny Russell retired chief of the City of DeKalb Fire Department. He spoke about the shooting at Northern Illinois University. He was assisted by his son, Andy KC9KXP.

President's comments (W9UZ): The DuPage Co. Sheriff's office will be conducting an electronics recycling at the county complex October 4 from 10am – 3 pm.

BROKE TO MEETING PROGRAM AT 7:45 PM

CALLED BACK TO ORDER AT 9:11 PM

Treasurer's report (N9HQ via N9NA)

Checking: \$1972.91

Money Market: \$2340.81

All bills paid.

N9NA will do the 990.

Membership (KA9RVS) Motion to accept Bob W9TIE (W9DHX, N9NYX) passed.

Secretary's comments (N9OA): No Report.

Property Custodian's report (W9BK): No Report.

Hamfest (WT9Y): Flyers are available. We will be at Kane County Fairgrounds. There will be a meeting 10/5 at WT9Y's QTH. The contract has been signed. Rich W9DKO will be in charge of tickets.

JOTA (N9OA): Will be 10/18 at the church. Contact N9HDW to assist.

Public Service (N9OA): No report.

RAB (N9NYX): 440 maching is repaired.

CSU (N9MWF): Work is progressing on installing to pneumatic mast. Racking for radios is acquired. The replacement ladder is on the way. An ARRL foundation grant in the amount of \$3000 was requested.

Christmas Party (NJ9E): 14 people indicated interest in attending a party at White Fence Farm. Approximate cost is \$15.00/head. It seems to be a preference to have it on a Saturday evening.

Motion to accept reports (W9DHX, N9NYX) passed.

Announcement (W9DHX): Solicited input on moving the DCOHSEM net to the WCRA 2 meter repeater from its current simplex. Input was given.

New Business:

Motion to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$100.00 for expenses for JOTA (N9OA, NJ9E) passed.

Motion to adjourn (NJ9E, KA9RVS) passed

Adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

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.

November 7th

December 5th

Mark your calendars.

NOVEMBER 2008 QST REVIEW – THE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

SATELLITE DISH ARRAY IN A SNOWSTORM WINS FIRST PRIZE IN CONTEST

W7LRD, Bob Johnson, snapped a picture of his antenna array with a lot of weather showing and won a prize of \$100 in the 3rd Annual QST Photo Contest. Other winners featured sunsets and clouds. Get your camera out and try for a prize next year.

CAN YOU BE ENERGY EFFICIENT IN YOUR STATION AND STILL HAVE FUN?

That's the question author Steve Gradijan, WB5KIA, asks of the readers. In "Greening Up" your station with new high-efficiency lighting and energy saving tips, you can actually save dollars. On pages 33 to 35, Steve reviews your options. He has four "sneaky" ways of saving energy.

1. Don't operate at home—only operate from your mobile. If you are not moving, turn off your car and operate from a portable generator, as it uses less gas than your vehicle.
2. Operate at night, using only the panel lights from your transceiver.
3. Turn your radio and PC off when you are away from them.
4. Use your computer for station operation only when needed. Keep a paper log.

COLD WEATHER IS COMING—BUILD AN ALL-WEATHER COAX BULKHEAD

Pages 40-42 show you how to build a neat panel to stick in your window so you can feed coax outdoors without losing heat in the house. Jim Kocsis, WA9PYH of South Bend, IN., did it the hard way with detailed construction instructions shown in this article. MFJ offers one for sale at \$89.95 on page 133 in their ad. Whichever way you choose, it's bound to save on your heating bill.

“YOU WANT TO PUT UP AN ANTENNA WHERE?”

Steve Rudin, W1WSN, a condo dweller, and Kris Merschrod, KA2OIG, a home owner, share their experiences in "Overcoming Antenna Restrictions" on pages 54 to 57. (Latter not quite as exciting as the episode in the Wheaton City Council). The condo ham worked out a deal to mount his antenna on a rooftop air conditioner structure—problem solved. The home owner worked to get a new zoning ordinance through City Hall without a \$100 variation fee—the new ordinance resulted in no fee!

NEW 60 METER BAND—THE PLUS AND MINUS OF IT

QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, is always willing to try something new—this time it is the 60 meter band. His one page article (page 58) gives a concise rundown of what is going on in this infrequently used frequency. Warning: Only upper sideband voice only can be used, and US hams are limited to a maximum output of 50 W PEP. There's a special home page for the band:<http://60meters.net/>

HAM RADIO ITALIAN STYLE

Showing the universality of ham radio, Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, is an ARRL staffer who took on an assignment to cover some European radio conventions. His professional writing assignment was enhanced by the fact that his wife, N3ZXE, went along with him. Also, he took off from the convention assignments to visit some "Ham Radio Fairs." You'll enjoy his story about "Pizza, Macaroni and Contests." See Pages 59 and 60.

HANDS FREE PTT SWITCH FOR MOBILE OPERATIONS

So you won't worry about being accused of using a mobile phone while talking on your Ham Radio Rig, Geoff Haines, N1GY, has designed a clever PTT setup. He takes three pages (73-75) to explain his idea for keying up using a wireless system with a "Key Ring" size remote transmitter that is Velcro attached to the steering wheel!

Mid-Winter Hamfest Sunday, January 25, 2009

HAMFEST

Featuring a Ham Radio, Computer & Electronic Flea Market

Kane County Fairgrounds

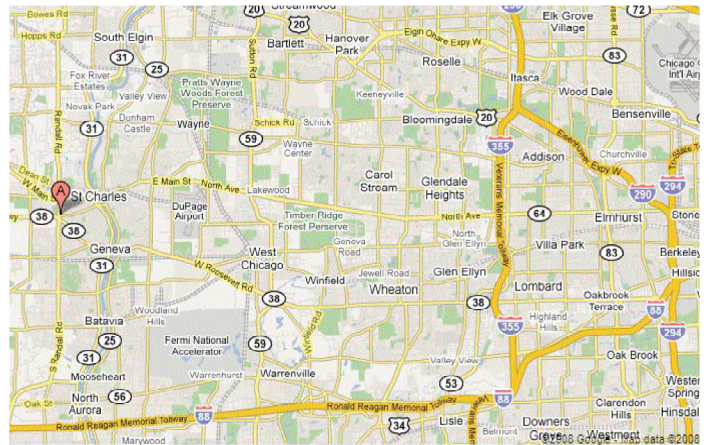
525 S. Randall Road., St. Charles, IL 60174



- ◆ Hours: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ◆ Reserved flea market tables
- ◆ Plenty of **FREE** parking
- ◆ Hourly prizes
- ◆ VE testing on site
- ◆ Forums

The Hamfest is in a new exhibition space that opened in July 2008. Visit our Web site for pictures of the new site

Talk-in 145.390- and 146.520



Tickets:
 \$7 in advance with four door-prize stubs
 \$9 at door with one stub
 Flea market tables \$25 (no electricity)
 \$30 day of show (if available)
 Electricity available for \$10
 Full details call (630) 604-0157
 e-mail: info@w9ccu.org
www.w9ccu.org

Order advance tickets with four prize stubs!

Name _____ Call _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ Tickets at \$7 _____ Enclosed _____ Tables at \$25 _____ Enclosed

Mail to: WCRA
 P.O. Box QSL
 Wheaton, IL 60189
 (Include business size SASE)

Advance ticket orders must be received by Jan. 9, 2009

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER



MARK	W9UZ
ROBERTO	WA9E
LARRY	KA9KDC
JOE	N9WRO
BOB	N9IRY

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.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 6th: 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.
- 7th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39. The program for this month is the annual club auction in a slightly different format. Something to do with White Elephants.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for December.
- 20th: 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 and updates due to Thanksgiving.

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 November 7th, 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

