



HAMLETTER
CELEBRATING 60 YEARS
Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 544 Founded 1948 December 2008



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW
YEAR**

WCRA Staff

Elect ed Offic ers

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

Vol unte er Committ 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 John, N9NA
Membership
Public Service Steve, N9OA
VHF/HF Awards John, N9MWF
Webmaster Tom, N9WBW

Amate ur License Sta ff

Training Classes Jack, KA9HEL
Vol unteer Exam. Harry, K9HK

WCRA Repeat er Admini strati ve Boar d (RAB)

Chair man 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 Repeat ers

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

Editor Don, N9NYX
Photos Larry, KA9KDC
Features Jim, W9DHX
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From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN DECEMBER 2008

November was quite a month. Presidential elections. Thanksgiving. And last, but not least, November Bingo which was a new, innovative and very successful event thanks to Peter, N9HDW and Tom, N9WBW. I picked up a dummy load that actually works. Fortunately the lid was on securely thanks to it's original owner, Bob, W3MDM, as it had over-turned in my back seat on the way home. Bob, W9TIE won a fine looking transceiver. In spite of his and his wife's health issues, he plans to donate the unit to another ham who is in ill health with no ham equipment. Way to go, Bob!

We look forward to December and our Christmas Party December 6th at White Fence Farm in Romeoville. Ruth, KA9RZG has spent a lot of time putting this together, along with Dale, NJ9E. Over 30 people are coming. If you haven't signed up yet, please let Ruth know.

John, WT9Y is actively working behind the scenes on Hamfest 2009. Fortunately, a number of people have stepped up to help, but more are needed. Call John with your availability. The mailing of approximately 1,000 will go out in early January. This is an excellent opportunity to try to build the club membership. Please let me or any of the club officers know your ideas as to how to make this happen.

I would to thank all of the Club Life Members who have done so much for our club. Thanks to Ken and Carol Bourne, W6HK and N6YL. Not many of our current club members know the Bourne's. They were instrumental in building the club to almost 300 members in the 70's. Ken was the first in the club, to my knowledge, to have the Amateur Extra license. Don Eddy, WA9ORK, another staunch member of our club years ago is in poor health. We wish Don the best and hope he feels better soon so that he can start coming back to our meetings.

(Continued on page 4)

WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA
WCRA
Secretary



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs, Inc.
Minutes of the general business Meeting for November 2008

Meeting held Friday, November 7, 2008, at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton Illinois.

In attendance:

Board: W9UZ, N9NA, N9OA, N9HQ, W9BK

Membership: KA9RVS, WT9Y, N9CBA, N9WBW, N9MWF, K9VGN, W3MDM, N9MWF, N9HDW, KC9IJO, KF9JC, N9MUF, AJ9M, NV9R, KA0DSF, KA9KDC, KB9FYL, NJ9E, KA9RZG, W9DHX, W9TIE, N9NYX, K9OZ

Guests: Ken Rupp - Aurora

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m., local time, by Mark Potter, W9UZ, president. All present introduced themselves and told items of interest.

- o Ken N9HQ installed an outside antenna
- o Mark W9UZ installed a slip knot on his tower
- o John N9NA w/ AJ9M completed 465 QSOs in a recent content
- o John WT9Y bought a Force 12 antenna
- o Wayne KF9JC took down a half hour antenna in half a day.

Motion to approve minutes (W9DHX, N9HDW). Passed.

President's comments (W9UZ): No Report

Vice President's comments (N9NA): Jan. Mtg: Hamfest, Feb: ARRL officer

Secretary's comments (N9OA): No Report.

Treasurer's report (N9HQ)

Checking: \$4784.13

Money Market: \$19,412.53

All bills paid.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S GAVEL (Continued from page 2)

We thank the Lord for all of his blessings. We hope that 2008 has been as good a year for you as it has been for us. We look forward to 2009.

Merry Christmas to all.

Meeting Minutes Continued from page 3:

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

Hamfest (WT9Y): Field trip to venue @ 1pm Saturday 10/8. Meet at Corner Bakery 11:30am, Danada East. We will need more help since we will be putting up the tables and unloading. We need a workers chairman. We are accountable for snow removal. Volunteers may enter via any large door. Enter via the Randall Rd. entrance. We will be mailing a brochure to all of the prior years attendees. Mark W9UZ has been entering information. Mark solicited assistance from others. Wayne also set up samples. Much discussion ensued regarding the viability of the mailing.

CSU (N9MWF): Measuring the CSU for additional work.

Public Service (N9OA): No report.

RAB (N9NYX): The 440 machine is back up at the Esplanade. It worked downtown and in Lincolnwood. The RAB will be looking at 2 meters.

Field Day (NJ9E): May be in a new location

Hamletter (N9NYX): See Don if you are not getting the notification. He also pleaded for articles.

Membership (KA9RVS): No report.

Website (N9WBW): Tom addressed concerns regarding personal data listed on the website. Tom needs software to edit PDF files. Tom requested appropriation for about \$100 to buy a PDF editor. (Motion: N9WBW, N9HDW) passed.

Christmas Party (KA9RZG): White Fence Farm. .We can have our own room with 35 people. \$20.00 per person. Sat. Dec. 6th @ 6pm. Chicken, Shrimp, Steak, Sides and Alcohol available for additional. Approximately 28 hands went up.

Motion to accept reports (N9WBW, N9NYX) passed.

Announcement: Ken Rupp (guest) came upon equipment at a home that was being renovated. He would like to find a good home for an antenna tower (4 sections) and a rotator. He is looking for a digital read out radio for his father.

New Business:

Steve, N9OA gave a report on equipment donated to the club. Heathkit SB-102 and related accoutrements donated by Lyle Kaiser, K9VXD of Lombard. A letter was written this evening and will be sent to Mr. Kaiser. (Continued on Page 7)

Dec.2008 QST Review-Field Day Results

By Jim Ward, W(DHX, Correspondent to the Hamletter

5A WAS A CROWDED CATEGORY!

Lots of Clubs chose to operate 5A, and an East Coast Club in the New Hampshire division logged 15,980 points with 35 operators led the pack. Their name is "Port City Amateur Radio Club and the results show they work with two calls, K1R and W1WOM. W9CCU did 3,848 points with 25 operators and WE HAD FUN! Thanks are due to all who participated-see you this coming June. Our numbers are shown on page 76, and the run down of the national scene starts on page 69.

"POUNDING BRASS" GETS ATTENTION

Those of you who want to take advantage of your skills with Mr. Morse's discovery of the dot and dash system of communicating will enjoy two articles in this issue. On page 30-32 Barry Feierman, K3EUI, describes how you can send code by using a PC sound card! All you need is your SSB transmitter and the card, and "Presto"-you are in the modern age of CW radio.

"Time to Tune Up that Straight Key" is a DIY article for brass pounders to fix or maintain their straight key that may be in the shack. Also, Joel R. Hallas, WIZR, tells how to improve your sending skills-both speed and technique. It is on page 61 with great illustrations.

"WISH LIST" SUGGESTIONS FOR THE XYL

In case someone in the family asks "What do you want for Christmas?"-pages 48 and 49 are filled with just the right electronic devices for your shack. Leave QST open and scribble the phone number of your favorite supplier on the margin.

THE MANASSAS BPL EXPERIMENT CONTINUES

Only the action of the City Council of Manassas, Virginia, is keeping BPL alive. The private suppliers have all walked away from the radical cable transmission technique. One of the City Council Members who voted against the community's assumption of the BPL service is quoted: "The current operator cannot make a go of it and wants out. There should be a lesson hiding somewhere in that fact." See Page 51-52

RESCUE BY 40 METERS CW

A heart-warming story of ham radio ingenuity and persistence can be found on this month's issue on page 43-"Montana Ham Assists in Rescue of Fellow Amateur 600 miles Away". You'll read how W7AU broke his leg, but managed to fire up his rig and send a help signal that N7ODM picked up in his shack. The victim gave his GPS coordinates and rescuers were sent on their way.

ADVENTURE AT THE NORTH POLE WITH MacMILLAN

Old Radio Editor John Dilks discovered the diary of Don Mix, a ham radio operator who joined the 15 month Arctic expedition. The fascinating story (with photographs) on pages 94 and 95 will give you the chills and narrative on living on board a wooden ship and exploring the polar region. Included in the report is the 1923 Christmas Dinner Menu.

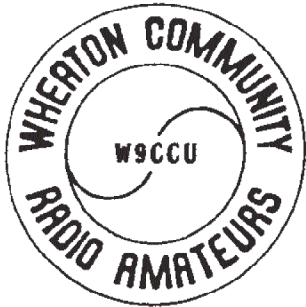
Mid-Winter Hamfest Sunday, January 25, 2009

HAMFEST

Featuring a Ham Radio, Computer & Electronic Flea Market

Kane County Fairgrounds

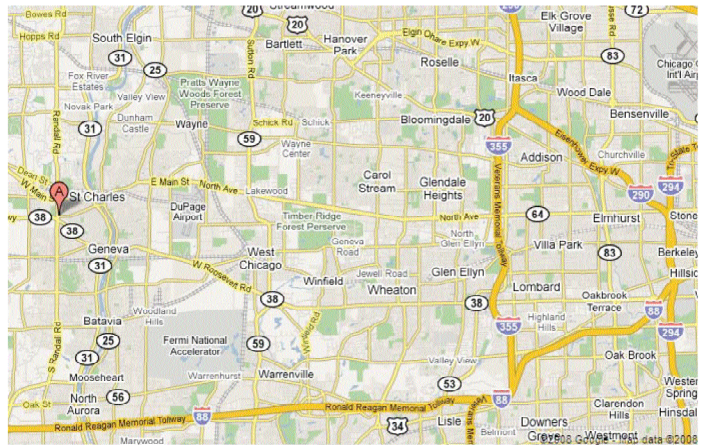
525 S. Randall Road., St. Charles, IL 60174



- ◆ 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 DECEMBER



BOB

W3MDM

DON

K9MUF

DOUG

W9NJM

JOHN

N9GLZ

GEORGE

KA3HSW

If you do not see your birthday listed here in your birth month, please contact the editor with your information.

Meeting Minutes Continued from Page 4:

Motion to adjourn (W9DHX, NV9R) passed

Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ Stephen J. Peterson

ARS N9OA

Secretary

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 4th: 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.
- 5th: 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 TBA.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for January.
- 18th: 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 December 5th, 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

