



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 545

Founded 1948 January 2009



Christmas Dinner and Party at White Fence Farm

Anni & Bob Schlotzer provided these pictures



More pictures on page 3

Renewal Application on Page 4

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 Repr

HAMLETTER

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Photos Larry, KA9KDC
Features Jim, W9DHX
HAMLETTER eMail: hamletter@w9ccu.org

This publication uses QuarkXPress 6.52 and Photoshop CS3



From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

President's Column January 2009

The Christmas Party at White Fence Farm was delightful. About 25 people showed up in spite of a blustery, cold wintery night. We were seated in a corner with plenty of room, so it was almost like we were in a private room. Many thanks to Ruth Kwarta, KA9RZG and Dale NJ9E for hosting and handling all the accompanying administrative chores. I sat across from one of our members, Paul Easter, W9PA and his wife Anita. Paul is a Broadcast Engineer with an excellent technical background. We are hoping for a talk from him at one of our monthly meetings. I personally feel that the event was very worthwhile. I look forward to having the same kind of Christmas Party next year.

It was a snowy Christmas, but, somehow, we all survived. OEM, as part of DuPage County's Crisis Management team, was prepared. The Amateur Radio Activation team was on the air on 145.71 listening for weather spotter information. Fortunately, there were no major problems. KF9JC, KAØDSF, KB9RTO, K9MWF and W9UZ helped out.

I hope everyone survives New Year's eve so we can see you Friday, January 9, 2009. The subject will be the Hamfest – one of our most important events of the year. John, WT9Y can always use more help. Happy New Year.

**REMEMBER TO
SIGN-UP TO
WORK AT THE
HAMFEST!**

WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA
WCRA
Secretary



The minutes for the November meeting were published in the December WCRA HamLetter.



More Christmas Party pictures at White Fence Farm.



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Membership Application

P.O. Box QSL, Wheaton, Illinois 60189

Office Use Only

Year Amt Paid
 Check Cash
 New Renew
 Membership Type Full Associate

Dues

Full Member	\$26
Student/Senior Citizen	\$13
Associate (No License)	\$13
Club Badge	\$7

Student Sr Citizen

Family:

Full member call sign:

Name on Badge.....

Name _____ Call Sign _____

License Class _____ Expiration Date _____

Address _____ Apartment # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home (_____) _____ Business (_____) _____

EMAIL Address _____

ARRL Member Yes OR No

(Please Circle One)

Sponsor (new members only) _____

WHAT CLUB EVENTS WILL YOU VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES FOR?

Please circle those which you might be interested in working or serving as a Committee Member

HAMFEST (January) FIELD DAY (June) VE TESTING JULY 4TH PARADE

PICNIC (July) CHRISTMAS PARTY TRAINING MEMBER RETENTION

ASSISTANCE (Elmer) BIKE-A-THON PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

OTHER: _____

COMMENTS _____

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

QST JANUARY 2009 –The Vintage Radio Issue

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

A FEAST OF ARTICLES FOR OLD RADIO LOVERS—

BC-455 COMMAND RECEIVER CONVERSION FROM WWII

If you're old enough to remember WW II, then the photos and story about this conversion will entertain you. I made my first novice band HF contact using one. You'll find the article on Pages 73-75.

MATCHING TRANSMITTER—THE BC-459

Naturally you'll need a transmitter to go along with the receiver. Pages 39-42 tell you how to make the conversion from power supply down to the place you can order tubes for this 65 year old beauty.

MORE CHALLENGES FOR THE ANTIQUE RADIO BUILDER

Brian Mallson, K8BHZ, has reached the pinnacle of old radio construction. He set out to build a 1927 Ham Radio Receiver he found in a 1927 issue of QST magazine! The story of how he found the parts for this 80 year old unit takes up three pages – and includes color photos of the gleaming copper that lined the cabinet. See pages 33 to 35.

A SALUTE TO BRIAN VOTH, W9ARZ, OLD TIME RADIO DESIGNER

This month's "Old Radio" column is devoted to a "Collins Look-Alike" HF transceiver designed by former Zenith Radio and University of Illinois electronic engineer Brian Voth. He is now a silent key, but the story of his career is an interesting one, and the transceiver is a sleek design. See page 93.

ANTARCTICA AND A HAM'S DREAM ADVENTURE

Adam Brown, K2ARB, tells the story of his taking a part-time job as a communications officer at a Field Camp near the South Pole. He spins an exciting yarn on pages 52 and 53 on tell how this job fulfilled his dreams as a 14 year old to visit polar lands.

NEW EDITOR FOR THE YOUTH SEGMENT OF HAM RADIO

QST has named Duncan MacLachlan, KG4IUM, age 14, as Youth Editor of the magazine. He has been licensed since 2006, and lives in Pawnee Village, Kansas. Duncan is in 8th grade and is big in Boy Scout activities, holding the rank of Life Scout.

THE LATEST ON BPL DEVELOPMENTS

You may have thought that BPL transmission systems had come to an end? Wrong. Even though the system has had complaints about interference, particularly in the ham bands, it continues. The Corporate Giant, IBM, has signed a \$9.6 million deal with International Broadband Communications (IBEC) to install BPL service to almost 350,000 homes in Alabama, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Key in this arrangement is that IBEC gear does not use the ham bands. However, it may interfere with short wave broadcasts and other parts of the radio spectrum. See Page 62.

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

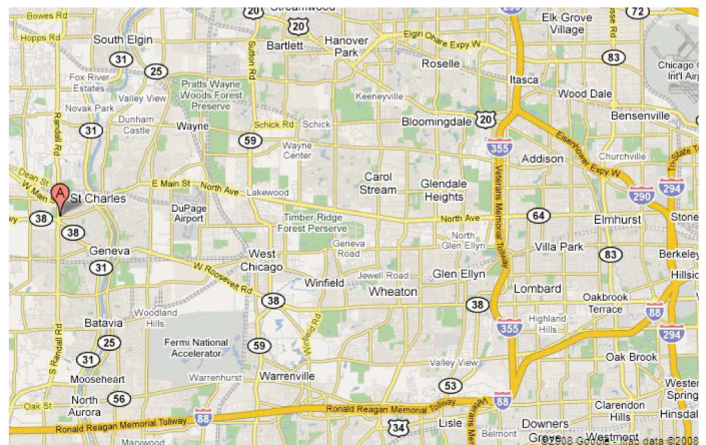


The Hamfest is in a new exhibition space that opened in July 2008. Visit our Web site for pictures of the new site

Talk-in 145.390- and 146.520



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



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 JANUARY



BOB

W3MDM

DON

K9MUF

DOUG

W9NJM

JOHN

N9GLZ

GEORGE

KA3HSW

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

YOU! COULD BE FILLING THIS
SPACE WITH AN ARTICLE YOU
HAVE WRITTEN.

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 9th: 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 Hamfest at the Kane County Fair Grounds on January 25th.
- 8th: 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 February
- 22th: 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.

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 January 9th, 2009, 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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P.O. Box QSL
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eMail: donlin@xnet.com

First Class Mail

