



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly
 Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
 Issue 546 Founded 1948 February 2009



**2009 MID-
 WINTER
 WCRA HAM-
 FEST AT
 KANE CO
 FAIR-
 GROUNDS**



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
Christm as Party	Ruth Kwarta, KA9RZG
Club Awards	John, N9MWF
Elmer/Know-Code	Charlie , WB9SG
Field Day	Dale, NJ9E
Hamfest	John, WT9Y
Refreshments	John, N9NA
Membership	Paul, KA9RVS
Public Service	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	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 Repe aters

145.390 / 144.790	103.5 (1A) or 107.2(1B)	PL Encode/Decode
224.140 /222.540	Carrier Access	
444.475 /449.475	114.8 Hz(2A)	PL Encode/ Decode

HAMLETTER

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From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

Hamfest 2009. A BIG success. Everything came together after a carefully planned, well coordinated effort. John, WT9Y, our Hamfest Chairman, outdid himself this time. Manpower Chairman, Steve, N9OA made sure that security was in place to “keep the lid on”, as well as assemble set-up and clean-up groups. Thanks to Peter, N9HDW for the interesting forums. Tom, N9WBW and I handled the 5-9 am shift directing traffic into the Fairgrounds and around to the main building. Believe me, it was COLD out there. As Tom is a seasoned hunter, he knew how to dress. Flares at two locations helped direct the traffic before daylight.

Joe, N9WRO and John, N9MWF handled the talk-in's and served as the Net Control for the entire event. Dale, NJ9E and Steve did the signage at no cost to the Club. Don, N9NYX was the announcer and MC, while Doug, W9NJM did the sound system. Thanks to Carol Schroeder, KB9FYL and family for the Girl Scout cookies.

John, WT9Y will present the results at the February meeting. FINE JOB, JOHN. I think John is already working on an arrangement for next year.

Club participation was very high. Many Club members pitched in. The results were very gratifying. Even better, a number of new membership applications were received. Paul Lubinski, KA9RVS, our Membership Chairman will provide a prompt follow-up.

The event was “capped off” by the St. Charles Fire Department. One of the sprinkler heads burst shortly after the end of the Hamfest, while we, and some vendors, were cleaning up. At one of the windows, it looked like a rainstorm was raging outside. Water by the gallons flooded into one corner of the display area. The SCFD finally shut of the affected area. There was a worry in that some water got into the electrical vaults in the floor. Fortunately, no injuries occurred. It was almost comical seeing about 10 firemen using squeegees pushing the water outside the building.

Minutes of the general business Meeting for January 2009

WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA
WCRA
Secretary



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

In attendance: Board: W9UZ, N9NA, N9OA, N9HQ, W9BK

Membership: KA9RVS, N9MWF, NJ9E, N9DKO, W3MDM, WB9SGD, W9DHX, KB9RTO, N9WBW,

KA9HEL, W9NJM, WT9Y, N9HDW, KA0DSF, KF9JC Guest: Steve, WAMZI, Naperville

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., local time, by Mark Potter, W9UZ, president. All present introduced themselves

President's comments (W9UZ): No Report

Vice President's comments (N9NA): Hamfest is tonight's program

Secretary's comments (N9OA): No Report.

Treasurer's report (N9HQ):

Checking: \$4,584.77 Money Market: \$19,420.53 All bills paid.

Motion to approve minutes (N9WBW, N9DKO). Passed.

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

Website (N9WBW): 57 members. The roster will be an HTML file to better show up on mobile devices. Mark solicited member comments on unpaid memberships. Much discussion ensued

CSU (N9MWF): Status quo. Weather has been an issue. There are firm plans in place to do construction and setup of the unit.

Public Service (N9OA): Will be sending out a list of tentative dates. Please help.

RAB (N9NYX): No report.

Membership (KA9RVS): Membership dues are due.

Field Day (NJ9E/N9OA): Moving to Green Valley -?- We would need a permit.

Hamfest (WT9Y): Tonight's program – report deferred.

Motion to accept reports (N9WBW,) passed. **(Continued on Page 4)**

(Minutes Continued) New Business:

Milton Twp CERT Training for Technician class licensing. WB9SGD and N9DKO volunteered to assistance. Motion to allocate \$100. (KB9RTO, N9MWF) passed.

Motion for \$350.00 allocation for 12V equipment. This is a cash advance from the ARRL foundation grant request. (N9MWF, NJ9E) passed.

Announcements:

Rich, N9DKO has tickets for sale.

Mike Wolff, AB9AX, a former president of WCRA has recently become engaged to KB9ZUK

Motion to adjourn (N9DKO, WB9SGD) passed

Adjourned at 8:23p.m.

MEETING DATES FOR 2009

The following are the General Membership meeting dates for this calendar year.

February 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

June 5

July 10 ** Special night: Second Friday (Due to Independence Day weekend)**

August - No meeting

September 4

October 2

November 6

December - No meeting.

Mark your calendars.

FEBRUARY '09 ISSUE OF QST – 160 PAGES OF GOOD INFORMATION ON AMATEUR RADIO

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

VIBROPLEX HISTORY-“The Story of the Bug”

You'll enjoy Brian Page's story of how the semi-automatic key that captivated CW addicts was manufactured in a small town in Georgia and grew into the city's major industry. Although the device was invented in New York City by Horace G. Martin, his fellow telegrapher “Buck” Buchanan chose to take the manufacture of the Vibroplex to Norcross, Georgia. The tale wanders through various stages, but ends up with today's company operating from Mobile, Alabama, producing 13 different models of keys. They have a website where you can see the whole line at: <http://vibroplex.com>. The article is on page 58.

WORKED ALL STATES: SINGLE ROVER

Most hams have their WAS, or at least have made an attempt at it. However, with one look at Bob Harder's Mobile setup in his 1969 pickup with 11 antennas will tell you that he is a serious contester. The ultimate and 50th QSO was from Makawao, Hawaii, on May 19th, 2004, when he worked a fellow contester in Hesston, Kansas, Nelson Kilmer, N0LRA. It took Bob, W0BH, ten years to accomplish the task, but he and wife, Lorna, W0WHY, are both teachers at Hesston College and enjoy spending their summers camping and touring. However, much of their Rover work was done by flying to spots such as Alaska and Las Vegas and renting a car. His next goal- Worked All Canada—he has nine provinces already. The three page story with great photos begins on page 83.

IT MAY NOT BE REQUIRED ANY MORE—BUT YOU MIGHT ENJOY IT—LOGGING IS FUN!

Richard Arnold, AF8X, believes that keeping a log has a forest of benefits. He breaks it down into three categories—legal, operational and personal. He's convinced that having a record of what you did on a certain day is handy to have if someone is going to claim interference. On the operating side, a log is nice to have when you are claiming WAS! Richard also reviews the various types of logs—hard copy full size or mini-logs, as well as the electronic systems. The article begins on page 58.

LIKE SOME ADVICE ON HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE FROM A FELLOW HAM?

You'll get it from Ray Fallen, ND8L, who is an agent in Hubbard, Ohio. If you want to put up a tower, he recommends that you see your Insurance Agent first. His story on page 51-53 is full of warnings, caveats, and photographs of some disastrous events. He does give you hope, though, and says your antenna can be covered under: “Dwelling Extensions, Other Structures or Appurtenant Structures”. Ray is also a private pilot and is a motorcycle enthusiast.

STILL TIME TO GET IN ON THE “ANTARCTICA POLAR YEAR” AWARD CERTIFICATE

It's a short deadline for getting the colorful Antarctica Award displayed on page 20 of this month's issue. You can check the details on: (www.waponline.it) The best chances for working the special call station will be the week of February 16th to February 22nd. Scientists from 60 nations have been involved in the International Polar Year in investigations of all sorts. In the 20's Admiral Richard Byrd mounted a modest expedition to

Executive Board Minutes for the meeting of January 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Potter, W9UZ at 6:55 pm, local time.

Motion to designate future meeting dates in 2009:

February 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

June 5

July 10 ** Special night: Second Friday (Due to Independence Day weekend)**

August - No meeting - Club Picnic : August 7

September 4

October 2

November 6

December - No meeting. Holiday Party: December 5

2010:

January 8 **Special night: Second Friday (Due to New Year's Day) **

February

Also designated:

- 2009 Club Picnic : August 7
- 2009

(N9OA, N9HQ) passed.

Discussion: Training at Milton Twp CERT for Technician licensing. WB9SGD and N9DKO volunteered as instructors.

Motion to allocate \$350 to the CSU committee to purchase 12v electrical system equipment. This is a cash advance against the ARRL Foundation grant. The committee is to reimburse the club with alternate funding if the grant is not received. (N9OA, N9HQ) passed.

Motion to adjourn. (N9OA, W9BK) Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The WCRA 2009 Hamfest Main Door Prize

Winners:

First - \$200

Dick Frieders, K9DKP

Batavia, IL

Second - \$50

Elton Caron, WA9AYQ

Stone Park, IL

Hourly – 9 AM - \$50

Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY

Cedarburg, WI

Hourly – 10 AM- \$50

Miles Jackson, N9MJ

North Barrington, IL

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY



BRUCE
JOHN

K9OZ
K9FID

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.

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Membership Application

P.O. Box QSL, Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Dues

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

Family Memberships Available

Office Use Only
Year Amt Paid
Check Cash
New Renew
Membership Type Full Associate
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)

(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) TOWER RUN (March) CLUB TRUCK BIKE-A-THON

OTHER

COMMENTS



MORE PICTURES OF THE
KANE COUNTY FAIR
GROUNDS HAMFEST



Subject: NEW SEC

Sent: Feb 1, 2009 10:55

Pat Ryan KC6VVT has served with distinction as our Section Emergency Coordinator since 2002. He has led our EmComm efforts through the tumultuous post-911 period and has maintained the fine organization that is EmComm in this Section. Personal issues have forced Pat to reconsider his role in the Section. To that end, Pat will step down as SEC, effective on 1 February. In his stead, I am appointing Brad Pioveson W9FX as Section Emergency Coordinator. Brad brings a sterling record in the Service and in EmComm, including his current duties as Assistant Net Manager for the storied Hurricane Watch Net. He has Been There And Done That, and owns several t-shirts as verification. We'll have more about his qualifications in the next News. Brad will continue the fine tradition of Public Service in our Section. Pat will continue as ASEC not only to assist in the transition, but also special projects, and of course as an OES.

Please join me in extending congratulations and all possible assistance to Brad, and a hearty thanks to Pat for a job well done.

73--
Tom KA9QPN

From The President's Gavel (Continued from page 2)

Be sure and put the March meeting on your calendar. Dick Isley, W9GIG, Central Division Director of the ARRL, will be the speaker. Bring all your comments, good and bad concerning Amateur Radio.

Letter received from one of WCRA's long time members

Top of the morning and Christmas greetings and a very Happy New Year to all!

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your memo that I received in the mail, it was most meaningful to me as I started in Ham Radio at about age 8 as a short wave listener between the ages of 8 and 10, sometimes broadcasting on 160 meters. From W9USA in about 1932 to 1934, being so young they took great delight putting me on the air as my voice was so high just being grammar school age.

They would put me on 160 meter phone band to visiting with people coming and going in and out of the Century of Progress on weekends, with the ham radio group, the fellows from the Century of Progress between 1932 and 1934, that was quite a thrill for just a little kid.

73es fellows, Bob, W9TIE

P.S. I used to work as a commercial opr aboard ship around the world several times.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 5th: 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.
- 6th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39. The program will be a talk from our local ARRL representative.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for March..
- 26th: 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.

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 February 6th, 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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First Class Mail