



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 548

Founded 1948

April 2009



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the wake for Jim, W9DHX's wife JoAnn Ward on April 3rd, the WCRA General Membership Meeting will begin at 8 PM. Please note this time change.

Family, friends rally around Lake Park High grad with cancer Family

By Jack Komperda | Daily Herald Staff

Chris Howe's hair was so out of control, his friends nicknamed him "Fro." Looks like Fro is going to need a new nickname.

The Lake Park High School alum joined nearly 100 friends and family members Saturday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle for a fundraiser to benefit an old schoolmate battling cancer. Mark Perry was diagnosed in January with
(Continued on page 6)



Kurt, KB9RTO contributing his hair to a good cause.

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

Editor Don, N9NYX
Photos Larry, KA9KDC
Features Jim, W9DHX

HAMLETTER 24 HOUR FAX 630:665-7757

HAMLETTER eMail address: 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 April 3, 2009

Condolences to Jim Ward, W9DHX on the loss of his wife JoAnn. Jim – our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Spring is finally here. Everyone's spirits are high due to the arrival of Spring and the bursting of color coming from the daffodils, crocuses, forsythia, etc. Good attitudes are in place, so let the fun work and activities begin!

Unfortunately, we have no word on our quest for Green Valley for Field Day.

Don't forget the late start to our April 3rd meeting at 8 pm.

Mark W9UZ

In order to vote in this month's elections you must be a paid up current member.

Please remember that if you did not renew for the 2008 year, you are not renewing for 2009. You are asking to join as a new member which requires that the membership vote on your membership. This is a requirement under the Club By-Laws.

WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA
WCRA
Secretary



WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMA- TEURS

Minutes for the General Meeting of March 2009
March 6, 2009

IN ATTENDANCE

Board: W9UZ, N9NA, N9OA, N9HQ, W9BK

Membership: KC9IJO, KA9RVS, KA9HEL, W3MDM,
WT9Y, K9MUF, N9NYX, K9OQN, WB9SGD, N9DKO,

NJ9E, KB9FYL, KA9KDC

Guests: N5EP,

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM, by Mark Potter, W9UZ

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting with the following corrections:

- The hamfest prizes were won by Bruce (KA0DSF) & George (W9GWR)
- The new business item had one nay not one day
- The new business item did not have a timeline of 90 days for a report.

(N9DKO, KC9IJO) Passed

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report (N9HQ)

Checking: \$11,614.45

Money Market: \$15,924.60

We have an average of \$24,000 just sitting in our checking account. A comment was made regarding the use of the large reserve.

Hamfest (WT9Y): There will be a wrap-up meeting on January 22, 2009. John will send out a notice.

CSU (W9UZ): The generator was used by the DuPage Co. Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for mutual aid for an emergency event.

Public Service (N9OA): No report.

RAB (N9NYX/KA9KDC): The .31 machine is up on the new pair. The 440 is working well. The Hoffman Estates equipment was picked up.

VE (K9MUF): There were 4 upgrades in the last two months.

Membership (KA9RVS): There is one month left to renew within the grace period.

Hamletter (N9NYX): Contact Don if you are not receiving the Hamletter.

Field Day (NJ9E): We are considering moving to Green Valley. Mark will send in the permit application.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS:

Motion to approve reports (N9NYX, N9DKO) Passed

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Steve mentioned the JOTA and Scout-O-Rama and solicited leadership.

Motion to allocate \$150 for phase one of the repeater frequency re-channelization. (KA9KDC, NJ9E) Passed.

Elections are next month. John WT9Y will head the nominating committee. See John to run for VP for a two year term, as is Treasurer. Secretary for a one year term.

Next month's program will be Paul Easter demonstrating PSK31

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn. (N9DKO, N9E) Adjourned at 8:03PM

MEETING DATES FOR 2009

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

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.

QST-APRIL 2009 – COOL HAM RADIO ADVENTURES

By Jim Ward , W9DHX

COVER STORY- VK LAND ALPINE EXCITEMENT

Steve and Gerald Warrillow, VK3SN and VK3GT, love to challenge their Australian homeland's "Alpine area". That's the mountainous part of the down-under-continent. Their story of a four-day trek at 7,000-plus feet makes for interesting reading. There are great photos of their igloo in which they took shelter from the Antarctic winds. You'll find it on pages 54 through 56.

THREE CHEERS FOR THE FIRST COLLEGE RADIO (WIRELESS) CLUB!

100 years ago, come April 30th, a few enthusiastic Freshmen at M.I.T. felt they needed to club to support their interest in "wireless radio". This event in 1909 was followed by the founding of the American Radio Relay League. The League's co-founder, Hiram Percy Maxim, was in the M.I.T. Class of 1886. Hiram's son was one of the College Club's organizers, so that led to the pressure of getting rights and privileges for the amateur radio community. See pages 57 and 58.

MAKE YOURSELF A "BOOM MIKE"

You'll need a junk box and some skill with plastic pipe and you'll have a professional looking "boom mike" for your shack. You will also need the mike unit from one of those old Trimline telephones that preceded today's lightweight phones. The author, Ron Wagner, WD8SBB, opened up a Trimline and found an "electret type" mike that gave him high quality sound and excellent frequency response. Ron's second piece of good luck was to find an arm light at a Goodwill Thrift store for \$2.50. He modified the light fixture to hold the mike and is pleased with the performance and convenience. You'll find the article beginning on page 79.

A "NO HOLES" MOBILE INSTALLATION THAT IS COMPLETELY REMOVABLE

It is hard to put a mobile rig in your vehicle without drilling a hole or two. If you don't, it is liable to go flying through the air when you make a sudden stop. But Paul Stone, KQ6RJ, installed a Yaesu FT-900 HF transceiver and a Yaesu FT-7800 UHF/VHF dual band mobile setup in his car! He started with a plastic storage crate—fastened both the master units to it and stuck that in the trunk. Then he located the remote control heads of each unit on the console between the seats. All equipment is completely removable. The three pages of Paul's construction and installation narrative and photos can be found on pages 41-43.

BROADCAST STATIONS LEAVE 7100-7200 kHz

The 40 meter band is going to be fun again! Since the ITU Conferences, beginning in 1979, regulators have been trying to clear out foreign broadcasters from the popular band. The effective date was supposed to be March 29, 2009. The details are on pages 79 and 80.

Continued from Page 1

a rare and aggressive form of cancer known as ALK+ Diffused B-cell Lymphoma.

Ten people, including one very upset 2-year-old, shaved their heads for the event, which is raising money to pay for Perry's medical bills.

"This is way more people than I ever expected to see," said Perry, who's expected to begin his fourth round of chemotherapy later this week.

Perry's symptoms began last fall with excruciating back pain and a lump he found on his abdomen. Trips to his first few doctors didn't uncover the eventual condition. And since he was uninsured, Perry was hesitant about going to an emergency room to get a more extensive exam.

"This kid was taking six to eight scalding showers a day to numb the pain," said Donna Perry, Mark's mother. "He was downing pain pills like they were candy. Not one of his first few doctors even bothered to take a blood test."

By his 21st birthday in January, Mark was diagnosed and seeing specialists at Northwestern University Medical Center.

Mike Bresnahan, a family friend who organized Saturday's fundraiser, said the roughly \$4,000 it netted will be used to pay for some of Perry's past medical bills, as well as incidental expenses related to his cancer treatment, such as parking passes for friends who visit him at the downtown Chicago hospital. Perry is in the process of applying for public aid to help defray the cost of some of his medical expenses.

"We just don't know what's coming around the bend," Bresnahan said. "The doctors are saying his is the only known active case of cancer of this kind in the world, so there are so many unknowns right now."

In addition to Saturday's event, the family is planning a second concert fundraiser in June.

To contact the family or make a donation, call Bresnahan at (773) 983-4718.

This article appeared recently in the Daily Herald. Editor

This was an article from the St. Petersburg Times Newspaper on Sunday. The Business Section asked readers for ideas on "How Would You Fix the Economy?" I thought this was the BEST idea. I think this guy nailed it!

Dear Mr. President,

Patriotic retirement:

There's about 40 million people over 50 in the work force; pay them \$1 million apiece severance with three stipulations:

- 1) They leave their jobs. Forty million job openings - Unemployment fixed.
- 2) They buy NEW American cars. Forty million cars ordered - Auto Industry fixed.
- 3) They either buy a house or pay off their mortgage - Housing Crisis fixed.
All national financial problems fixed!!!

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF APRIL



DON

N9NYX

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

APRIL 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 145.31. Annual elections will be held. Must be paid up member to vote. Our speaker will be Forrest Zander, W9FTL, who will talk about his flying experiences in the South American jungle and will include a demonstration of the blow gun. He also operated ham radio from several rare provinces in the Ecuador and Columbia.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for May..
- 23rd: 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 on 145.31 (-)

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting April 3rd, 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:

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
eMail: donlin@xnet.com

First Class Mail