



# HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
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## WCRA gets a Golden Oldie

Joe/N9WRO & John/N9MWF

Due to the magnanimous generosity of an unnamed "friend of WCRA", we are now in possession of a complete Collins S/Line station. The equipment had been kept rack mounted and is in pristine condition, but we also have the original cases. Included is a 32S-3 Receiver, 75S-3C Transmitter, 312B-4 Station Controller, 516F-2 Power Supply and an original Collins SM-3 Shure mic. The first picture is the standard S/Line station (of slightly earlier vintage than ours). We also have a 30L-1 1 KW linear amplifier, shown in the second picture. Cosmetically the equipment is in excellent condition. All the interconnect cables (and there are a lot) are included and are individually labeled. We do not have the original manuals (although we are still looking), but I did make copies from the PDF's online. Also the black feet which can be seen on the picture are missing since the equipment was rack mounted, but I will look around for something similar. Also when I say rack mounted, I don't mean just stuck on a rack shelf. We also have the 3 custom Collins rack mount shelves that fit the rounded corner cases exactly. All the equipment will need to be checked electronically to look for bad cap's, bad tubes and so on. Although the equipment would be worth quite a lot from looking at e-bay, I think it is just too cool to get rid of. I suggest we get the equipment checked out and put in working order. It would be very impressive at Field Day or any other event where we can show it off to the public. I will store it in a stable environment when not in use. Also I think it might be nice to allow members that are into HF have the opportunity to borrow the station for maybe a month at a time to let them experience the way HAM radio was 35-40 years ago or relive great moments from the past.



Above:  
Collins S/Line – 516F-2 power supply, 75S-3B transmitter, 32S-3 receiver, 312B-4 console, SM-1 microphone, circa 1969



At Right:  
Collins 30L-1 Amplifier  
1970

### WCRA Staff

#### Electe d Office rs

President	Mark, W9UZ
Vice President	John, WT9Y
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 /(-1.60 0)	Net Control l: Marty KA9RCC

#### WCRA Repe aters

145 .390 / 144.7 90	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

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## From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

President's Column May 2009

April 19, starting at noon on Sunday, found 8 club members at OEM Station One starting work on the CSU. Joe LeFebvre handled the tech side, while John Cheney handled coordination of all efforts, which included a change back to the original tire, washing, general clean-up and future planning. If anyone has ideas as to how to remove the Aluminum Oxide streaks, let us know. Thanks to the above members as well as N9OA, W9UZ, WT9Y, NV9R, NJ9E and Tom Salyers, N9QGV, our newest member. Tom – thanks for pitching right in. Tom's background is such that he will be a strong addition to our club. See the attached pictures.

Friday evening, April 24, 6 Club members were in attendance at W9UZ's house at an Executive Board meeting, consistent with the By-Laws. A number of items were discussed including the 2 meter repeater, transfer of Vice President's office from John to John (N9NA to WT9Y), budgets, membership, Field Day, Hamfest, etc.

I want to thank each member of the Board who has served with me this year. My job as President is much easier when competent and responsible people do their job well. Also, a special thanks to Ken, K9HQ, our Treasurer and Bob, W9BK, our Property Custodian, for agreeing to serve additional 2 year terms. N9OA's counsel to me during the meetings as well as the demanding nature of minute taking is time consuming,

but invaluable. Steve, and a few others, keep us honest in regard to Robert's Rules of Order. I have a copy and is the most boring stuff I have ever read, but necessary.

Soggy Sunday, April 26 caused a cancellation in the Special Olympics event, which was to be held at the Athletic Field of North Central College. WCRA was set up in the Press Box above the grandstand, early as usual. Participating were John N9MWF, Steve N9OA, Ken N9HQ, Kurt KB9RTO, Dale NJ9E, Don KB9UFS, Mike KC9KHT, Mike KC9NJI, Mary  
(Continued on page 4)

# WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA  
WCRA  
Secretary



## WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS Minutes for the 2009 ANNUAL MEETING April 3, 2009

### IN ATTENDANCE

Board: N9NA, N9OA, N9HQ, W9BK

Membership: KA9RVS, KC9IJO, WT9Y, KB9RTO,  
N9MWF, NV9RM AJ9M, KF9JC, KA0DSF, N9NYZ  
N9WBW

Guests: K9WXB, N9QGB, W9FTL

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM, by John Seipmann, N9NA in the absence of Mark Potter, W9UZ

### OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President (John, N9NA) Tonight's Program is presented by Forest Zander W9FTYL, discussed how to use a blow gun

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting with the following corrections: (N9wbw, n9nyx) Passed

### OFFICER REPORTS

Secretary (Steve, N9OA) Reported that our status as an ARRL affiliated club has been renewed. We are no longer a special service club due to ineligibility. We do not have a plan for offering training. It was also requested of the ARRL to forward w9ccu@arrl.net to or general club e-mail address wcra@w9ccu.org. Club stationary was created as an embedded graphic in a Microsoft Word file and is available for any executive board members and committees needing stationary.

Treasurer (Ken, N9HQ) Reported on bank balances.

Checking: \$ 5,472.13  
Money Market: \$ 22,527.23

Property Custodian (Bob, W9BK)

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hamfest (John, WT9Y) Next year Sunday, Jan 24. A meeting was held to wrap up last years. We sold more advance tickets and day of was down slightly. About 980 attended. There where 168 tables sold.

Field Day (Dale, NJ9E) We are looking to do a new location for this year. We are looking at Green Valley Forest Preserve. Dale claims that it is the highest point in DuPage Co. We do not need a porta potty because there is one on site. Less stations and more operators. We will do 20M SSB and CW in the trailer as a club station. Motion to appropriate \$900 for Field Day (KC9IJO, N9OA) passed.

Christmas Party (Dale, NJ9E) Will be in December.

Public Service (Steve, N9OA): Manpower assistance is needed for two public service events. You would be serving as a radio communicator assisting the staff run events helpful to thier specific cause.

**(Continued on Page 4)**

KC9IJO, Vic K9WXV, Janie AE9JG and Mark W9UZ. Steve carefully noted the free tee-shirt sizes. Murphy intervened and all were sizes 2XL and 3XL!

In addition to the program by Paul Easter, W9PA this Friday, be sure to let Dale know your ARRL tee-shirt size for Field Day. You must show up at the site and participate in some way to earn one.

See you Friday.

Mark W9UZ

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It would be difficult if not impossible to have too many volunteers for either of these events. For example, the Special Olympics also has gates that could be guarded and the MS Walk could also use mid-point watchers to watch walkers between the rest stops.

The events are:

NE IL Special Olympics, Sunday 4/26/09 0900-1500 at North Central College, Naperville, IL

Examples of duties include:

Net Control Assistant / Backup/ Floater (0900-1500)

Track 1 (7AM)

**(Continued on Page 5)**

## MEETING DATES FOR 2009

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

**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 REVIEWED—MAY '09—UPSIDE DOWN READING!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **THE POST OFFICE WANTS IT THAT WAY, FOLKS, THE LABEL IS UPSIDE DOWN**

For the first time in history, you'll have to check your name and subscription data by holding the QST for May UPSIDE DOWN. That's not a mistake—just USPS regulations.

## **BECOME AN ELECTRONIC REPAIRMAN—DON'T SHIP IT TO THE FACTORY**

Page 30 tells you how to trouble shoot. The author says: "In all testing use common sense." Those are the words of Heart Surgeon Dr. Max Eiselman, NC4L. Max is retired now, but he loves to operate on ham radio equipment for fun. His first point of approach is to "Give it a tap". I used to do that my old glass tubes in the black and white television days. The doctor says it works today.

## **BUILD A DOCKING STATION FOR YOUR HANDHELD(S)**

Frank Ingle, KG4CQX, must be a Mr. Neat. He's designed a handy docking station which uses a readily available "ammo box" as its foundation. On pages 45, 46, and 47 he illustrates how he did it to keep everything handy. His version was built to handle two handhelds and their respective mikes. Besides the ammo box, you'll need a piece of 2 x 4.

## **CELL PHONE HEADSET ADAPTED FOR HAM RADIO USE**

Geoff Haines, N1GY, a retired Respiratory Therapist, used his spare time to adapt an inexpensive cell phone headset to use with his ham equipment. Three pages (40-42) are used to tell you how to do it, with plenty of photos and schematics. Signal/audio reports claim quality equal to the expensive models.

## **BICYCLE MOBILE HAM RADIO—WHEELING ALONG THE BIKE PATH**

Having tried it myself, I can tell you it is fun, but keep one hand on the handlebars. Pages 41-42 tell the story of how to equip your two-wheeler with a deluxe lash-up. David R. Pennes, MD, WA3LKN, shows pictures of his 10 speed bike with antenna whip at the rear and his handheld and controls firmly mounted on the handlebars.

## **DAYTON PROGRAM AND AD SUPPLEMENT GIVES QST A FAT LOOK**

Get ready for the annual adventure by checking the article on page 71. There's also a massive ad supplement to prepare for the combined National Convention and Dayton Hamfest!

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Track 1 Bullpen  
Track 2 / Track 2 Bullpen  
Softball Throw  
First Aid Tent  
First Aid Rover  
Power Lifting  
Tournament Central  
(Continued on Page 11)



CSU clean-up day on a not to dry a day





# OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF MAY



PETER

N9HDW

TOM

N9WBW

MAC

W9LIW

WAYNE

KF9JC

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.

**Our speaker for the April meeting was Forrest Zander, W9FTL, who spoke about his flying experiences as a missionary in the South American jungle and included a demonstration of the blow gun. He also operated ham radio from several rare provinces in the Ecuador and Columbia.**



Forrest Zander begins the evening program.

Below he demonstrated a roll up python snake skin.



Forrest getting ready to show us how we can fire a blow gun.



Aiming to 'kill' a balloon in the corner.

The last balloon on the target board is about to be history. If you look closely at the left door jam above the door knob you can see the dart flying toward its intended target.





**HAM RADIO AND ELECTRONIC FLEA MARKET**

*Also featuring Antique and Vintage Radios – now Bigger and Better than ever!*

**SIX METER CLUB OF CHICAGO**

**52<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL**

**HAMFEST**

*and Antique Radio Club of Illinois Swap Meet*

**Sunday, June 21, 2009**

at the

**DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, Illinois**

2015 Manchester Road (North of Roosevelt Rd. [Rte. 38], East of County Farm Rd.

GPS COORDINATES: N41°51.96804, W088°8.03634

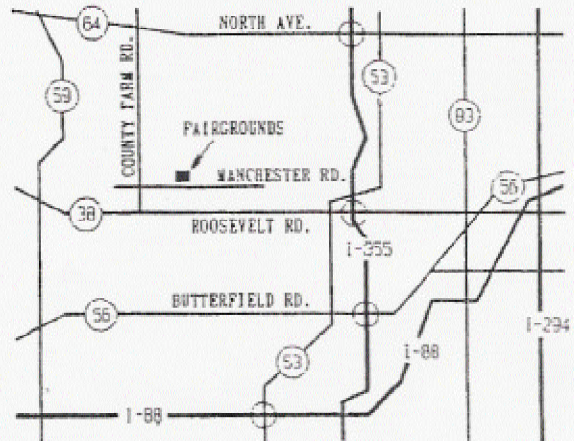
**GATES AND FLEA MARKET OPEN 7 A.M. BUILDINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC 8 A.M.**

All Weather, Large Outdoor Flea Market AND we've expanded to the spacious, air-conditioned Main Exhibition Hall!  
 AMSAT, ARRL, Skywarn and Dealer Displays  
 Good Food and Refreshments at Reasonable Prices  
 Free Parking – no extra charge for outdoor space  
 Donation Auction at 11 a.m. – Proceeds to ARCI (Radios, Test Eqpt., Parts Only – NO PCs)  
 Overnight RV Parking w/110 V hookup -- must Register in Advance!

1<sup>st</sup> - \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$200, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$100 awarded at 1 p.m.  
 TICKETS: Advance \$6.00; At Gate \$8.00 – Use form below to order advance tickets.

ARRL VE Testing 9-11 a.m. \$15 Exam Fee  
 TALKIN: K9ONA 146.52, K9ONA/R 146.37/97 (107.2)

ALL TRAFFIC ENTER GATES WEST OF BUILDING  
 INFORMATION: E-Mail [WD9GJK@arrl.net](mailto:WD9GJK@arrl.net) or call our 24 Hour InfoLine – (708)442-4961.



**VISIT OUR WEB SITES:**

**SIX METER CLUB OF CHICAGO: [www.k9ona.com](http://www.k9ona.com)**

**ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB OF ILLINOIS: [www.antique-radios.org](http://www.antique-radios.org)**

**PLEASE NOTE: ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PERMITTED**

**NO SALE OF FOOD OR BEVERAGES IN FLEA MARKET -- All Sellers Responsible for Cleanup of Their Spaces!**

turn with check payable to "Six Meter Club of Chicago" and Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope to: Six Meter Club of Chicago, 3532 Raymond Avenue, Brookfield IL 60513-1204 *no later than June 1, 2009.*

*PLEASE send Tickets/Reservations as follows:*

ADVANCE TICKETS (every attendee age 12 and over).....#	@ \$6.00 ea. = \$
COMMERCIAL DEALER TABLES 8 ft. w/110 V.....#	@ \$15.00 ea. = \$
INDOOR FLEA MARKET TABLES (no electric).....#	@ \$12.00 ea. = \$
OVERNIGHT RV PARKING FAIRGROUNDS FEE (includes 110V).....#	@ \$20.00 ea. = \$

*EASE PRINT:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_





Congratulations to John, WT9Y, WCRA's newly elected Vice President.

2009 Field Day T-shirts will be available to club members who will be participating in this year's field day activities. Please e-mail Ken, N9HQ, at [n9hq@arrl.net](mailto:n9hq@arrl.net) or [n9hq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n9hq@sbcglobal.net) with your name, call and size. Shirts are available in sizes small to 4X. You can visit the ARRL Field Day website to see what the shirts look like. The club will be purchasing the shirts at no cost to the members. Please have orders into Ken by May 15th.

The flowers that WCRA sent to the funeral of Jim's, W9DHX, wife JoAnn.





Competition Manager Shadow (0900-1500)  
Area Director Shadow (0900-1500)  
Venue Maintenance Department  
Venue Security Department  
Opening Ceremony (0730 - 1000)  
Turn 1 Exchange Judge (1300 - 1500)  
Turn 2 Exchange Judge (1300 - 1500)  
Turn 3 Exchange Judge (1300 - 1500)  
... or a half-shift for one of the above

Examples of duties include:

MS Walk (Tentative - Confirmation Pending)

Sunday, May 3 0730-1300 Unless noted (Times Tentative) at Centennial Park, Naperville, IL

Net Control Assistant / Backup/ Floater

Rest Stop 1

Rest Stop 2

Rest Stop 3

Registration (0700-1100)

Sag Vehicle

Supply Runner (in POV)

Rental Truck Communicator

Rover

If you are available to assist with either of these events contact Steve at [n9oa@n9oa.net](mailto:n9oa@n9oa.net) or via phone (630) 901-6962

Hamletter (Don, N9NYX) Check to see if you can receive large files.

RAB (Don, N9NYX) Repeaters working well. Looking for high locations. Would like to do a DSTAR Repeater

Website (Tom, N9WBW) John N9NA commented that he received a compliment about our club website after a DX contact. Tom reported that the site is up and working. The members only section was put up to support some club activities. The members only section will be taken down for right now.

Training (Charlie, WB9SGD) Absent.

Membership (Paul, KA9RVS) Motion to approve the following new members: W9TIE, W4FID, KB9GJX, WA9VAA, KX9RJ, WA9E, KG9H, WA9E, AC3Q, KA9KDC, KC9CUQ, KB9FYL, KC9CZP, KB9DBC, WB9JAB, KE9VG, N9GZR, KB9IYY, N9QGV, K9WXV (N9NYX, N9MWF) Passed. 1 apposed.

VE Program

CSU (N9MWF): Work party for general cleanup and maintenance, Sunday, April 19, approx 12 noon at DCOHSEM Station 1. The next round of construction will begin soon. We now have components for a

12VDC electrical system. Installation of the mast is projected for field day. DuPage OEM used our generator for use of CSU. A letter of gratitude was read.

#### APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Motion to approve reports (NJ9E, N9WBW) Passed.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of JoAnn Ward. Rev. H. W. Kiser, KF9JC offered words in the matter. Bob, W9TIE's wife was removed from life support

#### OLD BUSINESS

JOTA 2009 Will be led by N9OA and WT9Y will lead the effort.

Scout-O-Rama 2010 Motion to reject the invitation by Three Fires Council to staff their Scout-O-Rama due to it being on the weekend of the Dayton Hamvention. (N9OA,NJ9E)

Passed 14 aye / 2 nay

By-Laws Committee (Tom, N9WBW) In progress

#### NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers (John, WT9Y) Motion to elect John WT9Y for a two year term as VP, and Ken N9HQ as Treasurer for a two year term and Steve, N9OA for secretary for a 1 year term. (N9NYX, KC9IJO). Passed. 1 apposed (N9OA)

Motion to allocate \$121.00 for newsletter mailing to the four members without a Hamletter. (N9OA, NJ9E)  
... Motion to table (WT9Y, KC9IJO) passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn (N9WBW, N9NYX) Passed. Adjourned at 8:53 p.m.



Are you going to Dayton? Would you like to do an article of your adventures at Dayton? We could put it right here if you would write something up for the next HamLetter.



## MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145.31. Program by Paul Easter, W9PA, on
- 7th: 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.
- 15th: Field Day T-Shirt order deadline to Ken, N9HQ.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for June.
- 28th: 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](http://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 May 1st, 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**