



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 550

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June 2009



## WCRA HAPPENINGS



Beginning of the May Membership meeting of WCRA with Mark, W9UZ, 3rd from left calling the membership to order at the HEAD table.



Paul, W9PA, setting up his equipment for his talk on PSK31 at the May meeting of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs.



Paul Easter, W9PA, giving talk on his experiences with PSK31



Don, N9NYX, far right working booth at Dayton Hamvention recently.

WANTED TO BUY  
2 meter transceiver and simple antenna

Regards,  
John, N9NA  
[jfsiepmann@hotmail.com](mailto:jfsiepmann@hotmail.com)

### **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

#### **Amateu r 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

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This publication uses QuarkXPress 6.52 and Photoshop CS3

NJ9E and I found out during our first visit, a combination of wind and rain can be brutal – especially the wind. Each captain has to MAKE SURE that the antenna and tent supports are securely anchored. Kurt, KB9RTO will provide filled sandbags for all supports needed. We may see one Friday night.

This Field Day will be a more realistic test of emergency preparedness.

A final thought. Take care of your knees. They are important. Will elaborate Friday.



## **From the President's Gavel**

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

FIELD DAY – one of our major events of the year. A radical departure from last year. Greene Valley Forest Preserve near 75th and Route 53, in Woodridge. At least three different groups from our Club have visited the site. This is a more challenging task of using our resources at a location that is not close to home. Before, if we forgot something, we could “run” home, get it, and be back in ? hour or so. Also we could come and go any time. Greene Valley, for those of you who haven’t seen it, is quite a beautiful location. The highest spot in DuPage County offers us a unique opportunity. A fair amount of planning is going into this one. First – we cannot enter until 9 am – the starting morning of the contest – so we have to be ready. The space we have for antennas is somewhat limited. However, the good news is that we do not have to erect our antennas very high, as there are no trees or obstructions in any direction.

This Forest Preserve is only open to the public on Saturday 11am to 6 pm. Therefore, the hours we can enter and leave are limited. We are still working out these details with the District.

Stakes for antennas and supports are prohibited. Maybe short stakes for tents will be allowed, but, as of now, do not count on it. The reason for this is that this hill captures methane, which is sent to a generating plant on the grounds.

Dale and Steve are planning on both dipole and vertical antennas. As Peter N9HDW, Bob W9BK, Dale

# WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA  
WCRA  
Secretary



## WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMA- TEURS

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
OF May 1, 2009

### IN ATTENDANCE

Board: W9UZ, WT9Y, N9OA, N9HQ, W9BK

Membership: W3MDM, NJ9E, NV9R, KC9IJO, KB9FYL,  
N9NYX, W9PA, WB9SGD, KA0DSF,  
KB9RTO, W9NJM, N9CBA, N9MWF, AJ9M, WA9E

Guests: Anita Easter

### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mark Potter, W9UZ, President

### OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President (John, WT9Y) Paul Easter, W9PA, will present a program on PSK-31, and next month will be field day presented by Dale and Steve.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes for April 2009 (NJ9E, KC9IJO) passed.

### OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer (Ken, N9HQ): Checking account balance: \$5,468.13; Money Market: \$22,530.00

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hamfest (John, WT9Y): No Report

Field Day (Dale, NJ9E): Visited site and it was windy and wet. Pictures are available. We will have our operations restricted to the parking lot area and nothing will be allowed to be secured to the perimeter fence. Nothing can be staked into the ground, so sandbags will be required. No body will be allowed in or out between 6pm and 6am except emergencies

Christmas Party (Dale, NJ9E): No Report.

Public Service (Steve, N9OA): Special Olympics was last Sunday and MS Walk this coming Sunday. Two additional personnel could be used for MS Walk.

Hamletter (Don, N9NYX): Was sent out.

RAB (Don, N9NYX): Working on relocating the 2M machine to DuComm's tower. Also being considered is another site as a backup.

Website (Tom, N9WBW): Absent. John, WT9Y reports that Tom is working on creating a job networking site for members, spouses, s.o.'s and children,

Training (Charlie, WB9SGD): "Take'n care of"

Membership (Paul, KA9RVS): Current membership count is 58. Tom will e-mail out a roster to the membership.

VE Program: No Report

CSU (John, N9MWF): Thank you to all of the members who assisted at the cleanup party. Much work was accomplished, but removing oxidation from the sides is still pending.

### APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Motion to approve reports (KC9IJO, WB9SGD) passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

JOTA 2009 (Steve, N9OA / John, WT9Y): Committee will meet and then seek volunteers

By-laws Committee (Tom, N9WBW): Absent.

Motion on table regarding mailing newsletters (Steve, N9OA): Motion withdrawn.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

New Member Applications (Paul, KA9RVS): None.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP**

(Dale, NJ9E) Vicki Kieth, KA9OEB (a former member), is back at Brighton Gardens, and her health is failing.

(Roberto, WA9E) The XYL of Bob Firchau, W9TIE passed away.

(Roberto, WA9E) The Northshore Radio Club is holding a technician training class

(Ken, N9HQ) The Sandwich Hamfest is this weekend.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn (NJ9E, W3MDM) passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM

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# **MEETING DATES FOR 2009**

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

**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 June 2009 Reviewed –Field Day Hints

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **COVER, AN INSERT, AND BIG ARTICLE ON GREEN FIELD DAY!**

Right after page 16, you'll find a handy special insert for Field Day participants, with seven specific suggestions for making a Field Day successful. Also, a host of advertisers offer special merchandise you might just need to make a lot of contacts.

Since our 2009 site is "Green Valley", the article on page 70 "A Green Field Day" should be of special interest. It tells the story of the Greenfield, Indiana, Hancock Radio Club, which has used fuel cell power for the last 6 years—and decided last year to use a hydrogen fuel cell with solar power as their "all-green" power. It took lots of ingenuity and batteries, but they did it.

## **"NO EXCUSES" 160 VERTICAL PUTS YOU ON THE AIR IN SMALL SPACE**

The old excuse of "I don't have room" is out the window with this new antenna by John Miller, K6MM, who uses common PVC pipe in 10 foot sections. Detailed photos and copy beginning on page 32 explain how John did it on his back porch using deck chairs instead of sawhorses to assemble his beauty.

## **IT'S NOT THE HUBBEL, BUT YOU CAN OWN YOUR OWN RADIO TELESCOPE**

Mark Spencer, WA8SME, wants you to know about a home brew radio telescope that you can put together in your workshop. All it takes is for you to read his article, beginning on page 41, find a few parts and soon you'll be able to measure the relative changes in the surface temperature of the moon!

## **NEW ICOM TOY – THE IC-7200 HF AND 6 METER TRANSCEIVER**

Another find product review beginning on page 51 of ICOM's upgrade of their popular IC-7000. The reviewer suggests that it is a rugged package that would be good for Field Day operations or other emergency work. Manufacturer's suggested price --\$1,100.00

## **AMBASSADOR FOR THE HAM RADIO COMMUNITY AND UNCLE SAM AS WELL**

Yes, State Department staff members can be ham radio operators, too! J. R. "Bull" Bullington outlines life in the Foreign Service with his ham ticket at his side in a biographical report starting on page 66. Also photos of his shacks in faraway places, including Thailand and Burundi. His last State department Assignment as Ambassador to Burundi gave him a hilltop residence with plenty of space for antennas overlooking Lake Tanganika. You'll enjoy his narrative on a few of the "close calls" experienced on his various adventures.

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



DENNIS

KE9VG

DON

K9VGN

RUTH

KA9RZG

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

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SPACE WITH AN ARTICLE YOU  
HAVE WRITTEN.

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**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.

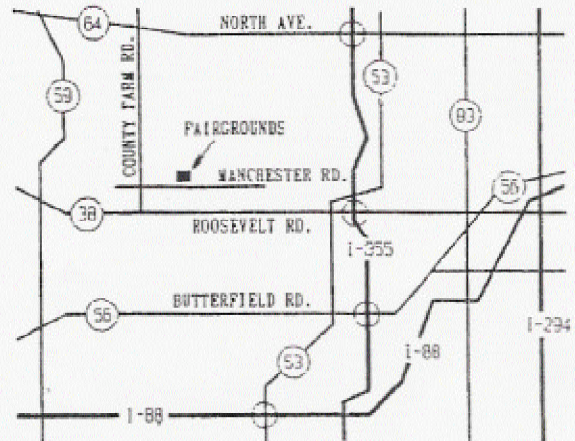
ARRL VE Testing 9-11 a.m. \$15 Exam Fee

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## JUNE 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 145.31. Program will be Field Day
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for July.
- 25th: 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 June 5th, 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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Wheaton, Illinois 60189  
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**First Class Mail**