



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 552

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## ANNUAL AUGUST CLUB PICNIC



Pictures courtesy of Bob, NV9R, and his wife Anni.



**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 mitte e Chairs**

Club Call Trustee	Tom, N9CBA
Christmas Party	Ruth Kwarta, KA9RZG
Club Awards	John, N9MWF
Elmer/Know-Code	Charlie, WB9SG
Field Day	Dale, NJ9E
Hamfest	John, WT9Y
Refreshments	John, WT9Y
Membership	Paul, KA9RVS
Public Service	Steve, N9OA
VHF/HF Awards	John, N9MWF
Webmaster	Tom, N9WBW

**Amateur License Staff**

Training Classes	Charlie, WB9SGD
Volunteer Exam.	Harry, K9HK

**WCRA Repeate r Administra tive Board (RAB)**

Chairman	Don, N9NYX
Secretary	George, KA3HSW
Member	Rich, N9DKO
Member	Larry, KA9KDC

**WCRA Radio Nets**

Sunday 8:00 pm 145.310/(-600) Net Control: Rotates

**WCRA Repeaters**

145.310/ 144.710	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

Don Drake, K9VGN, one of our long time members passed away in Elmhurst Memorial Hospital on July 12th, 2009. He was a WW II veteran. He was often seen at our winter Hamfests. Don was also active on the Club Sunday night net. When I came back to the Club after a 20 year absence, Don and another Don (Webster) K9MUF were the only "old timers" I recognized. Don was also a member of the York Radio Club. He worked as a machinist at Griffin Tool in Villa Park and for 23 years as an electrician at Central DuPage Hospital.

The count is approaching 50 for the August picnic. A badminton net will be set up as well as a teatherball pole. Both of these games present real challenges for children as well as adults . I am hoping Don Eddy, WA9ORK and his wife, Dorothy will be attending. Don is an old time Club member and WW II vet. Don was one of the three responsible for getting the original Club truck from AT&T Long Lines Division in Cincinnati many years ago.

I look forward to seeing you there.



# WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA  
WCRA  
Secretary



## WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING FOR JULY 10, 2009 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WHEATON, IL

### IN ATTENDANCE

Board: W9UZ, WT9Y, N9OA, N9HQ, W9BK

Membership: N9CBA, KA9RVS, NJ9E, KA9HEL,  
W9DHX, N9HDW, WB9SGDN9DKO, KA0DSF, KF9JC,  
N9MWF, K9WXV, NV9R, W3MDM, KA3HSW,  
KA9KDC, KB9FYL

Guests: AB9RN

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mark Potter, W9UZ. Wayne Kiser, KC9JC opened with a word of prayer.

### OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

President (W9UZ): none

Vice President (WT9Y): Tonight's program was HF Digital Voice (video) Next month's meeting will be at the north shelter of the Blackwell Forest preserve at 5:00 p.m.

Secretary (N9OA): There will be an executive board meeting Sunday, July 19, 2009, 7:00 PM, at the QTH of Steve, N9OA.

Treasurer (N9HQ): There are 6 extra Field Day tee-shirts. Ken passed them out.

Property Custodian (N9OA): none

### BREAK TO MEETING PROGRAM / BREAK

Broke to meeting program and refreshments at 7:40 PM, and returned at 8:20

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes as printed in the hamletter ( W9DHX, K9WXV) passed.

### OFFICER REPORTS

President (W9UZ): no report

Vice President (WT9Y): no report

Secretary (N9OA): no report.

Treasurer (N9HQ): Checking Account Balance: \$3151.98 Money Market Balance: \$22,535.62. The total is \$25,687.60

Property Custodian (W9BK): none

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hamfest (WT9Y): Will be putting the flyer together and ordering tickets this month.

Field Day (NJ9E): The results have been submitted to the ARRL with a points total of 2080. We where a 4A station. We used one of the new radios (We received from the estate of WB9IRH and KA9OEB)

Christmas Party (NJ9E): Will be in December.

Public Service (N9OA): Steve thanked those who assisted with the July 4th Parade. This was the last event of the year, but we stand ready to assist should an emergency arise and we are requested to assist. Steve also presented a check to the membership for \$250 from the Wheaton Jaycees. The Jaycees requested that we use the funds for the ongoing work on the CSU. We are already in contact with next year's chairman CSU (N9MWF): No major report. Work continues, but mid-June crummy weather hit us hard. Reminder: After an event, all items need to be placed in the proper place and tied down.

Hamletter (N9NYX): Please submit submissions in a timely fashion

RAB (N9NYX): (KA9KDC) The repeaters are status quo. The 145.39 crystal was added to the old packet repeater. We now have the controller from the old UHF repeater to control the repeater. We need a nice 19" rack mount. The 2 m repeater is a 30 w repeater, and is transmitting 29w.

Website (N9WBW): absent.

Training (WB9SGD): no report.

Membership (KA9RVS): to approve AB9RN as a member (KB9RTO , NJ9E) passed.

VE Program: no report

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Motion to approve the reports (KB9RTO , N9MWF):

OLD BUSINESS

JOTA (N9OA/WT9Y): no report

By-laws (N9WBW): absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Presentation (W9DHX): A meritorious service award was presented to KF9JC who will be relocating.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn. (N9DKO , WB9SGD) passed. Adjourned at 8:54 PM

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# MEETING DATES FOR 2009

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

**September 4**

**October 2**

**November 6**

**December - CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Mark your calendars.**

# QST Review for August 2009 – Photo Issue!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

Send in Those Pictures for Next Year's Contest.

The 2009 Contest is over, and the winners are on the cover. First Place and the Runner Up are both “out of the USA” snapshot artists. At the back of the book, page 152, the narrative explains that VE6AB of Calgary, Alberta, took the dramatic shot of the Calgary skyline at night. What is more impressive is that he did from the passenger's seat of his mobile. All the dash-installed rig shows up in luminous fashion, and he did it in the rain. Victoria Panagiotou, SV2KBS, shot a multi-antenna tower in Norway against the background of the Northern Lights. Those are the top two of the six photos displayed—all of them unusual.

## **The True Hero of “South Pacific” Revealed**

Paul Mason, DSC Winner James Michener created the book “South Pacific” and the musical glorified the French Planter that fell in love with the Navy nurse. The man who inspired the story was really a ham who was in love with radio, not Nellie Forbush. A new book, “Behind Enemy Lines” is reviewed on Page 20 and tells the factual story of the coast watchers who provided critical intelligence that saved the South Pacific for U. S. Forces. Admiral “Bull” Halsey praised Paul Mason and General MacArthur gave him the DSC. Two hams wrote the book. See [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and search VK4XH for more details of Paul Mason's WW II service.

## **“Look Man, No Hands! -- I'm Running My Rig with a Blue Tooth!”**

It can be done—and pages 44 and 45 tell you how to do it. Johnny L. Knight, WB4U, goes over all the different ways modern technology can be deployed to simplify your push-to-talk, no-hands operation. Because I purchased an old Army surplus “talker” carbon mike “around the neck” setup back in the fifties, I was amazed at this nifty step-up in technology. However, it isn't as complicated as you might think, and Johnny has done all the researching for you.

## **New Handheld 5-watt Transceiver for under \$100—the Alinco DJ-175T for 2 Meters.**

Steve Ford, QST's Editor takes on the job of reviewing the new rig that was introduced at Dayton. This handheld promises “economy and performance” for \$99. Steve gives it good marks on pages 46 through 48.

## **Ham Radio “In the Air” – QSOs at 41,000 feet From the Cockpit of a Jet Plane**

Eskil van Loosdrecht, AB6BC, is a pilot for SAS Airlines, and tells the story of his enjoying ham radio while his Co-Pilot does the flying. His adventures in the sky make interesting reading on page 67.

## **Vintage Radio—Reviewing Ham Scopes of the Past**

John Dilks, K2TQN, looks at Scopes from 1937 to the present. The price was \$5 in 1937 for an RCA-913. His 2-page (96 and 97) article shows home-brew and store-bought models.

# OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST/SEP- TEMBER



RICH	KA9HPL
JIM	W9DHX
ORRIN	WA9VAA
CARL	N9GZR
JACK	KA9HEL
EUGENE	WB9JAB
TOM	N9CBA

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.

# QST Review: Sept.'09-Emergency Communications

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## Ten Pages Devoted to “Readiness-Response-Resilience”

QST’s Public Service Specialist, Steve Ewald, WV1X, takes us through a variety of subjects, all relating to Public Service and Emergency Communications. Steve would like you to read every page, beginning on Page 66. He also wants us to subscribe to the ARES E-Letter to enhance our information on Public Service. Try it at: [www.arrl.org/ares-letter](http://www.arrl.org/ares-letter). You must be logged into the ARRLWeb site to access this particular link.

## “Bike 54, Where Are You”

QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, authors an interesting article on Page 59, telling how bicycle mobiles were equipped for the “Angle Ride” charity event in Connecticut. Hams equipped with hand-helds were able to provide communication through a wide-coverage repeater. The APRS in the Public Service Toolbox was a tremendous plus.

## New Roundtable Wrinkle-Combine HF and Computer Based Communication

The article on page 40 has three authors who have worked together to combine words and pictures in a unique way. Four pages explain how you can see a picture of the person to whom you are talking! They require 8 pictures/graphs to explain it, but it is fascinating blend of EchoLink and Skype. It does require the coordination of computer and radio discipline—and practice, according to the authors

## “Your Voice Can Be Heard

Perhaps you’ve been holding back on contesting because of your modest power. Author Bruce Pontiouos, NOADL, gives advice and encouragement to smaller power station with some helpful hints. Check out his page 53 article and take heart and “Get On And Try”. Take that, Big Power Station!

## Walter Cronkite, SK

Legendary radio/tv reporter, KB2SGD, is honored on Page 64 with a tribute. “The Most Trusted Man in America” passed away on July 17th after a long illness. He also narrated “Amateur Radio Today”, an ARRL Video promoting the hobby.



Wayne Kiser, KF9JC, a long time member and contributor to the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs is relocating to Michigan to be nearer to his grandchildren. At the July membership meeting, Jim, W9DHX, presented Wayne with a gift certificate and plaque from the club for his many years of service. Before this publication went electronic, Wayne printed the HamLetter for the club in his graphic arts business. Wayne will be missed by his many friends in the club and community. 73 & 75.



## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 3rd: 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.
- 4th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145.31. The program will be presented by Michael J. Schulz, W9MJS, Assistant Emergency Coordinator - Operations DuPage County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) on the DuPage County ARES.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for October.
- 24th: 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 September 4th, 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

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