



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Founded 1948



SPECIAL ISSUE

A message from the Chairman of the RAB

This Special Issue of the HamLetter is being sent to you because WCRA needs your help. It seems that over the past several months the Club nets, especially the 2 Meter Sunday evening net have dropped off to almost nothing. By nothing I mean there are no established Net Control Operators that are designated, no specific schedule for NCO's, and as a result our Sunday evening net in all likelihood has not been called on a consistent basis for many weeks now.

What does the Club's Executive Board and Repeater Administrative Board think should be done to remedy the situation? We as a Club have two basic options staring us in the face. Shut our nets down or bring the situation to the attention of the membership and former members that I send the HamLetter out to each month and hope that we can generate enough interest to re-staff the NCO roster and get interest in the Club nets back where it used to be several years ago. The second option sounds best for WCRA.

I think that since we as a Club have not been successful as yet in returning some of the Club's repeaters to the new College of DuPage FM radio tower, that interest has fallen off in our Club nets. I also think that the emphasis to replace the club truck with a new trailer or CSU, has drawn some members that would think about giving of their time to running nets to helping establish the CSU. While both of these are excuses, I don't think they are good reasons to let the Club's nets cease to exist.

If we can bring to the attention of the Club's membership and former members that an urgent need exists in this area I think that the necessary people will step forward and we can begin to rebuild the structure we need to run the Club nets the way they used to be run.

Do you have an interest in helping WCRA get its nets back up and running? We would like to shoot for list of ten qualified Net Control Operators for the 2 Meter net so that one person would not have to call the net more than once every couple of months.

What would be involved in becoming a NCO? A lead NCO needs to be selected so that a roster

can be drawn up so each NCO knows when he/she is responsible for their Sunday evening net. A Script will be made up and distributed to each NCO so that when you act as NCO you have a standardized beginning, middle, and end to your net. We would envision that each NCO read the preamble to the net, invite check-ins breaking the alphabet down in thirds and calling for call signs with suffix's beginning with Alpha through India and so on. The preamble would encourage check-ins to list any traffic they may have when they check in. At the end of the check in phase the NCO would pick up the traffic that was listed. Late check-ins would follow and then check-ins would be invited to list anchors if they have any. Any special announcements could be made by the NCO when he/she felt it would be opportune to do that. After a "last call" the net would be closed down and the repeater returned to normal amateur use.

Does this sound difficult? We must all remember the basic reason that nets are called in the first place. This is a very convenient way in which to train people in the proper use of their equipment and radio procedures at the same time. New members can use the nets to work on their skills, ask questions of other club members, and share a time of fellowship which is what amateur radio is all about.

Where do we go from here? After my lengthy pep talk it would be nice to think that many of you will step forward and show a desire to be NCO's. This may not happen but I will think positively. You may contact any member of the Executive Board or member of the RAB. These people are listed on the masthead of each month's HamLetter.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to hear me out as Chairman of the RAB. We on the RAB are charged with the responsibility to provide the club with operating repeater systems that can be used when the club desires to have nets, special events, training sessions, or any other productive use of these club assets. Presently the RAB is studying an upgrade to our equipment and what this will cost the Club. It is my hope that you will all realize we have a need here at WCRA, look at your schedule, and raise your hand to join in the re-establishment of our club nets.

73,
Don
N9NYX

A Ham is attempting to sell the following equipment:

Yaesu FT101ZD circa 1980, used about 100 hrs. Never opened! Sat idle for 12 yrs or so. Butternut bow-tie antenna (2 elements beam) w/rotor, mast, rotor control. Mike, key 50 Ohm coax, all manuals.

Best offer and you come take it away before 10/15/09 PLEASE.

Dick Ehle KA9III
r_ehle@sbcglobal.net that is r underscore ehle 630-247-6123 Close to DuPage county fair grounds