



# HAMLETTER

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## HELP NEEDED!

**Subject: 2009 Chicago Marathon - AR Comm Operators Needed**

23 SEP 2009

For the first time in its history, the Chicago Marathon organizers are asking for Amateur Radio Communications assistance. This marathon usually has 25,000+ runners and this requires a large volunteer support organization.

It has been suggested that small groups might want to adopt one of the 21 medical aid stations. Area radio clubs might want to organize a larger group effort.

For more information, please contact the members of the Chicago Marathon Amateur Radio Communications Team listed at the bottom of this message.

Thanks & 73 - George R. Isely, W9GIG  
ARRL Central Division Director  
w9gig@arrl.org

### **Experienced Hams Needed for Bank of America –Chicago Marathon on October 11, 2009**

Numerous amateur radio operators are needed to participate in an important health and safety role. We are actively recruiting amateur radio operators who have experience with public service events and emergency communications. You must work well under pressure, and be able to multi- task in a very public setting. Familiarity with the FEMA incident command system (ics-100,200, 700 & 800), and Red Cross or FEMA disaster assessment would be a plus (but not a requirement).

We plan to operate completely self contained. You must supply your own dual band mobile radios (35 – 50 watts), antenna, and electric power to operate for 8+ hours.

The Bank of America – Chicago Marathon is a 26.2 mile event to be held on October 11, 2009. The course location will be in downtown Chicago, with the route passing through some of the most exciting and vibrant neighborhoods in the city. The start and finish lines are collocated in Grant Park. A link to the course map can be found at:

<http://tinyurl.com/pw9afd>

Positions to be staffed include:

- o Voice operators to staff the 21 aid & medical stations (3 each location, total 63),

- o Net control operators to work in the secure unified command area(6),
- o Four geographic "quads" will be designated
- o Medical traffic on one net
- o Runner Dropout, and Logistics traffic on another net
- o Message loggers and runners will be used.
- o Liaison with WX Op's, Red Cross, served agencies and all city services.
- o Weather Center Operations providing updates to Race Management (as needed)
- o Auxiliary voice radio operators able to "fill in" where needed throughout the course (6),
- o Volunteers to staff the Amateur Radio Comm Team booth at the Health & Fitness Expo at McCormick Place (12),
- o Friday, October 9th open from 9 AM to 8 PM
  - 1st shift from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM, (3)
  - 2nd shift from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM (3)
- o Saturday, October 10th open from 9 AM to 6 PM
  - 1st shift from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM (3)
  - 2nd Shift from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM (3)

For more information and to sign up, please go to: [www.chicagomarathon.com/HamRadioVolunteers](http://www.chicagomarathon.com/HamRadioVolunteers) and follow the links.

This success of this large scale public service event will be determined by the hard work and preparation we put in prior to the event. Check our gear for proper operation, batteries charged, cables tested, and frequencies programmed into the radios and verified.

We may consider this the same as a real EmComm deployment, since the importance and scope are similar to what we have seen in a medium-scale incident. The race organizers are giving us a chance, setting high expectations, and will be watching.

And then consider this, if the City of Chicago is awarded the 2016 Olympic bid on October 2nd, all eyes worldwide will be on the Chicago Marathon as a preview of things to come. If amateur radio wants a seat at the table-we have it. Let's deliver in the tradition of which we are so proud.

This is a chance for all local hams to put on a really good show to a very broad local, national and international audience.

73's

Jerry Martin, KC9BDA <[kc9bda@earthlink.net](mailto:kc9bda@earthlink.net)>  
 Catherine Saccany, KC9IQF <[cdsaccany@aol.com](mailto:cdsaccany@aol.com)>  
 Rob Orr, K9RST <[rob.orr@comcast.net](mailto:rob.orr@comcast.net)>

**(Continued on bottom of page 3)**

**WCRA Staff**  
**Elected Officers**

**President** Mark, W9UZ  
**Vice President** John, WT9Y  
**Secretary** Steve, N9OA  
**Treasurer** Ken, N9HQ  
**Custodian** Bob, W9BK

**Volunteer Committee 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 Repeater Administrative 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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Bank of America - Chicago Marathon Ham Radio  
Comm Team

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ARRL Central Division  
Director: George Isely, W9GIG  
w9gig@arrl.org



## From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

Hard to believe that the summer is about gone. What did we accomplish as a Club? Lot's of planning has gone on behind the scenes. On Sunday September 20, 2009, your Executive Board met at John Faber's house at 5 pm followed by a Hamfest committee meeting at 7 pm.

Our Hamfest Chairman, John, WT9Y is right "on top" of things as he has already addressed a number of items that required long range planning before this meeting. See John's report elsewhere in this Hamletter. Volunteers are still needed as this event is manpower intensive on our part. This is our major event and the one that brings out the best in club participation. Contact John if you have not already done so.

Membership continues to be one of our major problems. Your Executive committee is going to take a fresh look at this at the next Board meeting.

Jim Ward, W9DHX has taken charge and followed through on the equipment gathering and listing from the estate of Don Drake, K9VGN in Villa Park. Don was a collector and it appears he saved almost every nut, bolt and screw since the 1950's. Read Jim's article appearing elsewhere in this Hamletter.

Steve, N9OA is trying to put a team together to help out with the Chicago Marathon coming soon. The October meeting will devote a fair amount of time to the use of our nets. What can we do to stimulate participation? Who will be the rotation operators and who will take overall responsibility? The subject of repeater improvements and coverage will be discussed at another meeting.

See you October 2.

# WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA  
WCRA  
Secretary



## WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

### ATTENDANCE:

Board: WT9Y, N9OA, W9BK

Members: WB9SGD, N9DKO, W9LIW, AJ9M, KA0DSF,  
NV9R, W9DHX, NJ9E

Guest: N9GLZ, W9MJS, WR9U, NB9R

### OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President (WT9Y): Mark is absent, and Jim W9DHX reports all is well.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve as published in the Hamletter (W9DHX, N9DKO) Passed.

### OFFICER REPORTS

Vice President (WT9Y) Thank you to Mike for tonight's program, next month will be up in the air, and November will be an auction variant.

Secretary (N9OA): An executive board meeting will be held at the home of WT9Y on Sunday, September 20, 2009 at 5:00 PM

Treasurer (N9OA on behalf of N9HQ): Checking: \$3,489.21; Money Market: \$22,538.48.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hamfest (WT9Y): A Hamfest committee meeting will be held at the home of WT9Y on Sunday September 20, 2009 at 7:00 PM, following the Executive Board Meeting. The flyer is being concluded and will be printed shortly. Tickets should be at the October meeting. Steve indicated a goal to have the volunteer score card filled out by the end of the WCRA Christmas Party.

Field Day (NJ9E): Seeking new sites for next year.

Christmas Party (NJ9E on behalf of KA9RZG): No report.

Public Service (N9OA): No report.

CSU (N9MWF): Absent.

Hamletter (N9NYX): Absent

RAB (N9NYX absent – N9DKO): Confirms that work is being done to improve the repeater situation

Website (N9WBW): Absent

Training (WB9SGD):

Membership (KA9RVS): Absent

VE Program: Absent.

### APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Motion to approve reports as given (N9DKO, WB9SGD) Passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

JOTA 2009 (N9OA/WT9Y): We will be holding the event on Saturday, October 17, 2009 in the afternoon. The CSU will be at Panfish Park.

By-Laws Committee (N9WBW): Absent

#### NEW BUSINESS

New Member Applications (KA9RVS): Motion to approve KC9PWL as a member of WCRA (N9OA, NJ9E) passed.

#### ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS/GUESTS

There is an electronics recycling program tomorrow.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn (W9DHX, WB9SGD). Adjourned at 8:46 PM

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# MEETING DATES FOR 2009

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

**October 2**

**November 6**

**December - CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Mark your calendars.**

## JANUARY HAMFEST COMMITTEE MEETS

It's that time of the year and the first meeting of the 2010 Hamfest committee met at John WT9Y's house on Sunday, September 20. Roberto WA9E, Bob W9BK, Steve N9OA, Mark W9UZ, Peter N9HDW, Kurt KB9RT0 and Jim W9DHX attended the meeting.

The Hamfest budget was reviewed, amended and approved. Suggestions for saving money by emailing instead of using the USPS, expanding the use of Pay Pal for tickets and tables, providing an internet café at the Hamfest and adding an email address for Hamfest committee members were discussed. A separate flyer will also be prepared and distributed to the local scout organizations noting that scouting youth will be admitted free to the Hamfest.

Flyers have been printed and an early distribution was made at the Radio Expo Hamfest on September 12 in Belvidere. Tickets are being printed and will be available for distribution at the club meeting on October 2. Our Hamfest will be held at the Kane County Fairgrounds on Sunday, January 24, 2010 from 8 am to 1 pm.

We are looking for additional volunteers to serve as Chairmen for various functional areas. If you are interested, please contact John WT9Y at 630.605.8027. Our next Hamfest meeting will also be at WT9Y's house on Sunday, November 15.

### VIKTOR, K9XWV, CORRECTS A ROTOR PROBLEM AT 95 FEET

At 2 pm Wednesday, September 23, Viktor, K9XWV, showed up at Mark's (W9UZ) house to help with a rotor problem. There was slippage between the mast and the rotor at certain times. The problem could not be solved from the ground, so a climber was needed. Victor volunteered. At 3:30 pm, Viktor drove home, having solved the problem. The rotor is located at the 95' level. There is a basket there, so working on the rotor is fairly comfortable. The auxillary device to provide extra holding power between the mast and the rotor had failed and was interfering with the rotation. Viktor immediately saw the problem. A basket of parts was pulled up, so he had everything he needed.

Thank you Viktor.



## **A OPPORTUNITY TO HELP**

Marty, KA9RCC, has recently been in contact with the RADIO CLUB OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL 22 in New York City. Many of you may have seen their ad in QST asking if you are SITTING ON A TAX WRITE OFF? As they say in their QST ad Radios you can write off - Kids you can't.

Marty saw this ad and decided to take a proactive role in helping this school out with unused amateur radio equipment and contact the school.

It turns out that an organization up on the North Shore is also donating radios and THE RADIO CLUB OF NEW YORK is coming to the area to pick up those items. As a result the Club will be in the Wheaton area to stop by Marty's QTH and pick up items that he has decided he no longer is using and the Junior High kids could get much better use of.

If you have old and no longer used items such as handie talkies, batteries, cables, tubes, anything that an amateur might find useful, please plan gathering your old anchors and giving Marty a phone call so a drop off may be arranged at his QTH. Marty's office phone is 312 338-1900.

Thank you all for your help in advance.

## **NET CONTROL OPERATORS NEEDED**

### **DO YOU HAVE THE 'RIGHT STUFF'?**

As many of you are aware WCRA is rebuilding its net structure and NCO rosters. If you would like to participate in this on going endeavor please contact a member of the executive board.

## **NET CONTROL OPERATORS NEEDED**

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



STEVE

N9OA

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.

**WOULDN'T YOUR REALLY LIKE TO BE A NCO?**

# DON DRAKE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TO HONOR VETERAN WCRA MEMBER

Dorothy Drake, widow of K9VGN, Don, has provided funds for a \$250 award to be given by the Club to recognize the volunteer and emergency performance of a WCRA member. This is in memory of Don's faithful service to the Amateur Radio Emergency activity and his willingness to step up to any task requested.

"This is our first Scholarship Opportunity, and we are setting up the organization to administer the details of the gift," commented Mark, W9UZ, Club President. "We are deeply indebted to Mrs. Drake for her generous funding of the scholarship, and will do our best to make it a living memorial to Don. I have appointed a Committee, headed by Jim Ward, W9DHX, who will get started right away to award the 2009 Scholarship at our November meeting."

Accompanying the Award will be a traveling plaque containing the honoree's name, as well as a Certificate of Award for the Scholarship holder to keep. The annual winner will be selected based on the amateur's contribution to the volunteer and emergency programs of the Club.

Don was retired at the time of his death on July 12th of this year, but had led an active life, beginning with his service in the Army in World War II. Following the war he was employed by several manufacturers, Johnson Outboard, Zenith, and International Harvester, as a machinist. He also worked for fellow club member, Bob Briscoe, KG9U, for a short period of time. He also was a key player in his wife Dorothy's "Candy Kitchen" enterprise, which was famous for candy novelties. Don created the molds for the "suckers" and other sweet treats.

His last place of employment was at nearby Central DuPage Hospital in electrical maintenance. However, his friend and former employer, Bob Briscoe, was the one who made the connection with Dorothy Drake for the Scholarship tribute. Bob, in turn, alerted the Club to the opportunity to make it all happen.

In addition the formal scholarship, Dorothy is carrying out Don's wishes to have the contents of his ham shack go to benefit the Club. Custodian Bob Krueger and other volunteers are preparing a wealth of equipment for the November Auction and potential Hourly Prizes at this year's (2010) January Ham Fest. Details of the auction will be in the November Ham Letter.

**NET CONTROL OPERATORS NEEDED  
A CHANCE TO SERVE  
IMPROVE YOUR RADIO SKILLS  
MEET MORE OF THE CLUB MEMBERS  
SIGN UP TODAY!**

## OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st: 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.
- 2nd: 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 the use of a 4-wire ohmmeter for low resistance measurements plus a possible discussion of what is involved in tuning a repeater duplexer. Tom, N9CBA, will present these topics.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for November.
- 22nd: 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 October 2nd, 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**