



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 554

Founded 1948

Nov 2009



## 2009 AUCTION NIGHT MEETING WILL BE AN UNUSUAL “THREE BAGGER”

Vice President and Program Chairman John Faber has announced that this month’s Friday, Nov. 6th, meeting will have three auctions instead of the conventional one. Members can bring an electronic/ham item for auction, plus there will be both a “live” auction, and “silent” auction of items from the Don Drake, K9VGN, Estate.

The November meeting will be held in the Gymnasium of the Presbyterian Church, located on the lower level. The additional space is needed for the 14 Tables of Don Drake Estate Auction items, plus the “Regular” Auction of Club member materials.

The 120 Plus items in the Drake estate are listed in a multi-page catalog on the WCRA home page ([www.w9ccu.org](http://www.w9ccu.org)). Fourteen pages of photographs show each item in detail relating to the key numbers in the catalog. Minimum bidding prices are also listed. Items not meeting the minimum bids will be offered at the January Flea Market on the Club’s sale table.

“Members who bring their item to the meeting for the regular auction need to tag it with their name, call, and minimum bid,” commented VP Faber. “If it does not get the minimum bid, they get to take it home, or they can donate it to the Club for January HamFest Flea Market sale along with the Estate sale unsold articles.”

Two tables will be set up for the “Regular” auction. Members will be responsible for their cash collections; items which they do not sell may be turned over to the Club Custodian, Bob Krueger, W9BK.

A fourth event for the meeting will be the awarding of the Don Drake Memorial Scholarship. This was established by the family of Don in memory of his service to the Club and Community in public service. A cash award of \$250 will be made each year for five years. An individual Certificate of Award, and the possession of the traveling Award Plaque will be given to the WCRA member selected.

The meeting room will be open early to permit members to get an early start on the silent auction items. Starting time for the Business Meeting will be 7:30 p.m. Cash and local checks will be accepted for the Don Drake Estate Auction, but not credit cards

**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, 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

HAMLETTER 24 HOUR FAX 888 665-8246

HAMLETTER eMail address:hamletter@w9ccu.org

This publication uses QuarkXPress 6.52 and Photoshop CS3



## From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

Friday night is the big night we have been waiting for. The auction is almost here. And it is in 3 parts, as explained elsewhere in this Hamletter. I can't say enough about Jim Ward's efforts on all phases of the auction. He has put in many hours. A tip of the hat to you, Jim.

Also, many thanks to Tom Negele, N9WBW who is, what amounts to, a professional Webmaster. Tom put together our website showing the items for sale in the Drake estate, K9VGN. Be sure and look it over so you can see what you are bidding on. Get to the auction early so you can look at the merchandise. All items are very reasonably priced.

Be sure to bring any radio related items to the auction. Get rid of what you don't need. Make your wife happy. What you bring home will undoubtedly take up less space.

We will keep the business meeting at the beginning, short, as we expect the auction will take almost all of our time.

If your house is near ComEd power lines, talk to Bob Krueger, W9BK. He is near, and I mean near, Edison's 345 and 138 KV bulk power transmission lines, and one of their substations, yet he manages DX QSO's on both 40 and 20 meters.

See you soon.  
Mark Potter, W9UZ

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT  
CHECKING INTO ONE OF THE  
CLUB NETS?**

**BECOME RADIOACTIVE WITH  
WCRA!**

**WCRA  
Meeting  
Minutes**

Steve, N9OA  
WCRA  
Secretary



**WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS**

Minutes of the General Meeting

October 2, 2009

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mark Potter, W9UZ at 7:30pm

In Attendance:

Board: W9UZ, WT9Y, N9HQ, W9BK

Members: KA9RVS, W9DHX, AJ9M, W3MDM, KA9HEL, NV9R, N9MWF, KA9KDC, N9CBA, KA0DSF, WA9DAA, NJ9E, K9WXV

Guest: K9ZL (Billy)

**OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMARKS**

Vice President John, WT9Y

As tonight's program, N9CBA is giving a program about measuring resistance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion (W9DHX, N9MWF) passed.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

President (Mark, W9UZ): Open to suggestions. Membership is down. Attendance is up

Vice President (John, WT9Y): Next meeting program will be an auction of some sort.

Treasurer (Ken, N9HQ): Bank Account balances Checking : \$3825.21, MM: \$21,541.34 = \$25,366.55

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Public Service (Steve, N9OA): We will be assisting at the Chicago Marathon. Thank you in advance to WT9Y and N9MWF

CSU (John, N9MWF): As preparation for the Marathon, we will be at the CSU at 1PM, Sunday all are welcome to assist. Plans for additional work was slowed due to family medical problems.

Hamfest (John, WT9Y): Tickets and flyers printed. Manpower is needed. Steve is requesting to fill the volunteer positions by December 4.

Field Day (Dale, NJ9E): We'll have one in June.

Christmas Party (Dale, NJ9E): That will be in December.

RAB (KA9KDC on behalf of N9NYX) Repeater was taken down, and final work to put it on '39. Some talk on sites

Membership (Paul, KA9RVS): Motion to approve KA9ZHB (NJ9E, N9MWF) passed.

### **APPROVAL OF REPORTS**

Motion (W9DHX, KA9HEL) passed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

JOTA 2009 (Steve, N9OA / John, WT9Y): We'll be doing this event 10/17. Cross your fingers.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Jim, W9DHX -> Scholarship program as a memorial to Don K9VGN. To reward one member for emergency service. Please contact Jim with nominations. E-mail Jim with for a catalog for Don's shack equipment.

Larry, KA9KDC The RAB requests an allocation of \$62.90 for a PL deck for the '39 Repeater (KA9KDC, N9CBA) passed.

John, WT9Y moderated a discussion on our club net(s). Tuesday was suggested either before or after the DuPage ARES® net.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion (W9DHX, KA9HEL) passed. Adjourned at 9:21p

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

---

# **MEETING DATES FOR 2009**

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

**November 6**

**December - CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Mark your calendars.**

# **QST November-W9JQT Hits the Cover!**

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **HINSDALE QRP HAM DREAMS ABOUT ROCK-MITE WITH A VFO ADDED**

Bob Patzlaff, W9JQT of Hinsdale, has his QSL card on the QST cover! There's also a display of his shack's QRP layout. It is a modification of the classic Rock-Mite kit, plus a VFO circuit from the "QRP Notebook". You'll enjoy Bob's story, plus excellent photographs of how all of this fits into Altoid boxes. The article is on pages 30 to 34. He calls the rig "The Rockless" in honor of his freedom from those pesky crystals.

## **POLAR PIONEERING REMEMBERED—BUD WAITE, W2ZK, A REMARKABLE STORY**

The South Pole adventures of Admiral Richard E. Byrd were closely tied to the talents of radio pioneer Art Collins, the driving force behind Collins Radio of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. And while Art was back in the U.S., Bud Waite was a radio operator with Byrd at the South Pole. On pages 96 and 97, you'll see photos of Bud in his polar gear. Read about his key role in a communications program that brought news of Byrd's expedition into living room radios all across America. The Vintage Radio column salutes Bud with a fascinating report on his exploits.

## **BUILD A REMOVABLE CAR WINDOW ANTENNA—"LOOK MA, NO HOLES"**

If you are sensitive about drilling holes in your car, you might want to consider an antenna mount that fastens to the left rear passenger window. I bought one at a WCRA hamfest several years ago, and it works fine. On page 45-47, you'll see Jean-Yves Morin's design for a deluxe version. This Montreal ham (VE2MHZ) put together a design you might want to copy.

## **WANT TO BE HANDS-FREE WITH "VOICE OPERATED TRANSMITTING"?**

Steve Sant Andrea, AG1YK, an Assistant Editor at ARRL Headquarters, explains the mysteries of "VOX" on page 70, with some easy to understand box diagrams. He says it gives you some free hands to write entries in your log, sip your coffee and carry on a QSO at the same time! However, it will take some adjustments, both of your "voice habits" and your rig controls. He tells about some amusing incidents when a speaker (Tom Hanks as Jim Lovell in the Apollo 13 movie) didn't know that VOX was "on."

## **ARRL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER IS NOW "NEW AND IMPROVED"**

It is issued on Thursday, instead of Friday and has a new look. Page 13 tells about the changes and how to sign up for it if you are an ARRL member. It is on the internet and has 80,000 subscribers. You might as well get this "extra" service—visit: [www.arrl.org/arrlletter](http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter).

73



# CSU is the Star of '09 BSA Jamboree on the Air Event

The pictures prove it –our CSU was up front and personal for this year’s Scout event on Saturday, October 17th at Glen Ellyn’s Panfish Park, with BSA Troop No. 381 of nearby Parkview Elementary School co-starring at the microphone and TV screen.

Complete with educational information on the side of the trailer, the unit was manned by Steve, N9OA, with Mark, W9UZ assisting with the hookup and providing the pick-up vehicle. Dale, NJ9E and Ruth, KA9RZG, provided a Cub Scout grandchild, Tony, for the activity. Dale also worked with the Adult Scout Leaders and Ruth assisted with snacks for the workers.

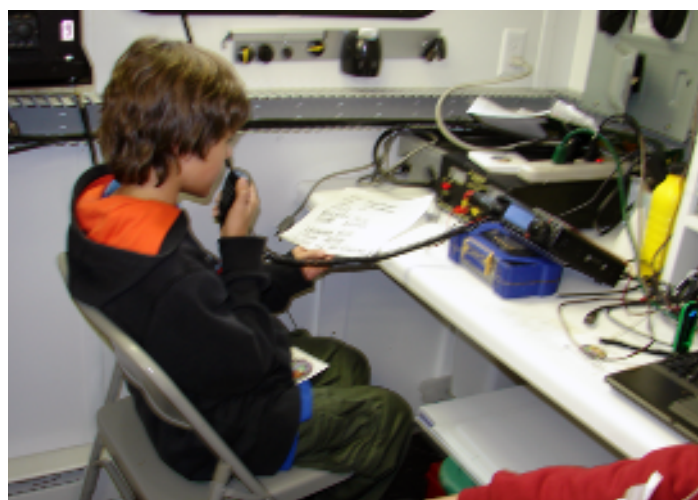
Others who were involved in the JOTA were John, WT9Y, event co-chairman, who presented an “on the air” run down of the hobby, and Peter, N9HDW, who rigged the aluminum on the top of the CSU, and trailed it to Panfish. Jim, W9DHX, provided a “Cap Camera” hooked up to a monitor, showing the versatility of various modes the hobby enjoys—from modern television to basic dots and dashes. Mary, KC9IJO, JOTA committee member, provided internet access. Others showing up to bolster the WCRA participation were John, N9MWF, and Bob, WB9FEA.

After the CSU tour and demonstration, Steve passed out 2009 “JOTA Patch Awards” to all participating Scouts.



“Cap Camera” catches Cub Scout on ATV Screen

“Calling CQ Jamboree” —  
Notice the JOTA Patch on his  
lap.



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



MARK	W9UZ
ROBERTO	WA9E
LARRY	KA9KDC
JOE	N9WRO
ROBERT	N9IRY
JOSEPH	KA9UJI

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.

# TOM WILSON, N9OKQ, SILENT KEY

Former WCRA member and member of the Homeland Security/OEM team for many years, Tom Wilson, died on September 9th, in Benton, Kentucky. His wife, Marge, is also remembered for her baking contributions to Ham Picnics and OEM meetings. Tom kept up his interest in public service as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and the Benton Volunteer Fire Department. The Board of Directors and members of the Club wish to express our sympathy.



Scouters learn all about the CSU capabilities



Parkview School Troop gets a tour of the CSU



Peter, N9HDW, right, explains the WCRA mission to Adult Leader



Steve, N90A, left, welcomes John, N9MWF, to the JOTA event.



Cub Scout Tony gets to see the Ham gear up close.



## NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 5th: 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.
- 6th: 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 club's annual auction.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for December.
- 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. No testing on November.

Remember the Club net on 2M is held every Sunday evening at 8 PM local on 145.31 (-)

### Next WCRA General Membership Meeting November 6th, 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:

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
P.O. Box QSL  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187  
eMail: donlin@xnet.com

**First Class Mail**