



HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
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COME TO THE MEETING THIS FRIDAY TO SIGN-UP TO HELP SETUP, SELL TICKETS, WORK THE SHOW AND MANY MORE OPPORTUNITES

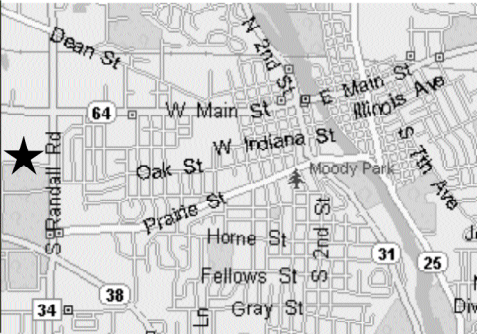


MID-WINTER HAMFEST

Ham Radio, Computers and Electronics Flea Market

Plenty of FREE Parking ● Reserved Flea Market Tables ● Hourly Prizes
 VE Testing for all License Classes ● Forums

Sunday, January 24, 2010
Doors open at 8AM (Closes at 1PM)
Kane County Fairgrounds
525 S. Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL



Talk-In on WCRA's 2M Repeater 145.31/- (107.2 Hz)
 or National Simplex Frequency 146.52 Mhz

Tickets:	Flea Market:
Advance, 4 stubs \$7	\$25/table (\$30 day, if avail.)
At the door, 1 stub \$9	Electricity available for \$10

(630) 604-0157 info@w9ccu.org www.w9ccu.org

Advance Ticket and Flea Market Table Order Form

Name _____	Call _____	Tickets @\$7.00 = \$ _____
Address _____		Tables @\$25.00 = \$ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Electricity (\$10.00) \$ _____
Phone _____	E-mail _____	Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please include an e-mail address so that we can confirm your order.

Mail to: WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60187-1055

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
224.140/222.540 110.9(2Z) PL Encode/ Decode
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

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From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

It is hard to believe that another year is about to pass.

What are some of the highlights of the past year? Field Day was memorable in some ways. The Green Valley site was certainly unique, including the thunderstorms that occurred during the night. Congratulations to the hearty individuals who stayed all night, including Ken N9HQ, John WT9Y, Viktor AJ9M, Peter N9HDW, Hal AC3Q, Vic K9XWV and all the other support people, like the Co-Chairmen, Dale NJ9E and Steve N9OA.

Our treasurer, Ken N9HQ liked the fact that we are now putting almost \$100 more per month into the Club treasury. This is due to no longer renting storage space. This may change some day, as we do have a fair amount of equipment at various members' houses. Another way to approach it is to "decrapolate" (thanks Dale) and throw 80% of the stuff out. This decision will be made by Club members collectively.

The Don Drake (K9VGN, SK) auction was certainly one of our major events and highest attended of the year. Many people went away with new "treasures". Jim, W9DHX worked almost day and night putting this together. Congratulations to John, N9MWF for winning the Don Drake Estate Scholarship Award for devotion to club emergency preparedness activities.

Congratulations to Carol and Larry Schroeder, KB9FYL and KA9KDC, Mark Potter W9UZ and Joe LeFebvre N9WRO, for the Club Lifetime Membership award. These people have devoted much of their time to the Club and to many of its numerous activities.

Mark January 24, 2010, for the Mid-Winter Hamfest at the Kane County Fairgrounds. Contact Steve Peterson, N9OA if you can help out manpower wise, or in any other capacity. If you haven't been to the Fairgrounds before, the building is new and there is plenty of parking space.

We are looking forward to the Christmas Party at the Bavarian Lodge located in nearby Lisle on Ogden Ave. If you like German food prepared the way it should be prepared, you do not want to miss this. We hope to see you there.

WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA
WCRA
Secretary



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs Minutes of the General Meeting for November 2009

Meeting held Friday November 6, 2009, at First
Presbyterian Church, Wheaton, IL

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mark

Potter, W9UZ, President

In Attendance:

W9UZ, WT9Y, N9OA, N9HQ, W9BK, AJ9M, N9MWF, WA9VAA, KB9RTO, N9CBA, KA9RVS, NV9R, N9NYX, K9MUF, W9DHX, KA9HEL, W3MDM, KA9KDC, KB9FYL, KA3HSW, N9WBW, WB9SGD, W9NJM, KA0DSF, KA9H, WA9SYW, KC9JLK, KC9GRH

Opening Announcements

John, WT9Y, VP announced that the program will be the auction, and the January program would be the Hamfest.

Special Presentations

Jim, W9DHX presented the Drake Scholarship to John, N9MWF

Steve, N9OA presented a plaque to Don, N9NYX in appreciation to his service as President in 2006.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes for October 2009 as printed in the Hamletter (N9WBW, N9NYX) passed.

Officer Reports

Steve, N9OA, Secretary reported that there will be an executive board meeting at the home of John, WT9Y on November 15 at 1700, local time.

Ken, N9HQ, Treasurer reported that the checking account balance is \$3042 and the money market balance of \$21,547 for a total treasury of \$24,589

Standing Committee Reports

Public Service: Steve, N9OA thanked Johns N9MWF and WT9Y for their help at the Chicago Mararthon

Hamfest: John, WT9Y reported that flyers and tickets are available. A committee meeting will be held at John's home following the dinner that will be served following the Executive board meeting.

Christmas Party: Steve, N9OA made inquiries as to location and night as requested by Dale, NJ9E

Hamletter: Don, N9NYX reported that the newsletter was published. He also restated his need for articles.

RAB: Don, N9NYX read a report on improving the 145.31 repeater and made a request for \$700 plus tax and

shipping to buy a power amp.

Website: Tom, N9WBW reported that the website is up and running.

Membership: Bruce, KA9H was approved as a new member.

VE Program: Don, K9MUF reported that 2 new technicians and one extra upgrade were accomplished at the last session.

Approval of Reports

Motion to approve (KB9RTO, N9MWF) passed.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (N9CBA, N9MWF) passed at 7:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Stephen J. Peterson

ARS N9OA

Secretary

These minutes are a reprint of the November Club Meeting Minutes that appeared in the December 2009 HamLetter

WCRA Christmas Party Shots



SIGN-UP TO WORK THE HAMFEST!

QST JAN-2010 – DIY ISSUE – GET YOUR SOLDERING IRON PLUGGED IN!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

PROJECTS, PROJECTS, PROJECTS

January's issue is loaded with things to do on a long winter's evening. Editor Steve Ford explains how to learn PSK31 over the weekend (Page 30) so you won't have to fake it if someone asks you what it is. He takes you through the steps to achieve listening to others, and also participating yourself in the "digital revolution."

MOTHER NATURE IS ON YOUR SIDE

Joel Hallas, W1ZR, lives on a woody lot, and feels that hams should use trees as an helper in getting up their antennas. His page 39 article shows how to use pulleys and halyards to improve your antenna performance and ease of installation and maintenance. Counterweights can help you out when the trees sway in the breeze.

TRY OUT THE NEW YAESU FT DX5000MP

The Yaesu folks took the opportunity to give you a vision of the new FT DX 5000MP. A full-size (18.5 x 5.4 x 15.5 inches) fold out ad is available to paste up in your shack. It has a lot of bells and whistles. The fold out is located between pages 16 and 17 and is on heavy paper stock.

MAG MOUNT THAT WON'T FALL OFF?

"No holes in the roof of my new car!" If the answer is "Yes, dear", then you'll need this next article for guidance. Skip Colton, W1FTE, figured out he'd better get a "Quad Mount" and avoid family arguments. On page 46 and 47 he tells his adventures with a "no holes installation".

HAM RADIO 101 – START WITH A CRYSTAL SET

Seventeen smiling faces holding an equal number of crystal sets...a class project for 8th grade students at Granite Bay(California) Montessori School. You'll enjoy the picture, plus remember your own crystal set adventures reading page 67. Brian Lloyd (WB6RQN) tells of how he used Amateur Radio to cover the Science syllabus from robotics to space travel. The school has its own repeater, K6GBM.

HAMFEST ANNOUNCEMENT –PAGE 97—SELL THOSE TICKETS

There is a listing of our Hamfest –the date is January 24th—see you there!

UNUSUAL GIFTS SPARKLE 2009 XMAS PARTY AT BAVARIAN LODGE

From the largest to the smallest and in between, WCRA members and guests had a lively “White Reindeer” gift exchange. Among the smallest was Anni Schlotzer’s Presidential Seal Mouse Pad from the Bagdahd Embassy and for the largest it was Ruth Kwarta’s three tray giant tool box. In between was Steve Peterson’s plush ScoobyDoo Singing Santa Claus and Carol Voegeli’s chiming Christmas door hanger.

Lots of laughs and platters of good and plentiful German food.

Door prizes were won by Carl Schow (Deluxe Three Speaker Computer Amp System) and Barbara Lubinski (Sports personal radio with Weather Band and AM-FM)

Deserving Kudos were given to Party Chairman Ruth Kwarta for locating the different location with the “Family Style” menu.

TRIBUTE TO DON DRAKE, K9VGN, GIVEN BY PALMER GOODWIN, LOCAL FRIEND

(Editor’s Note: Here are words of appreciation from Palmer Goodwin of Wheaton about the life of Don Drake that may give an insight to a Club Member that will be sorely missed.)

First, I was related to Don by his marriage to Dorothy; she was my first cousin. So my friendship with him began after his marriage. Don was in World War II, and served in various areas, including China and the Phillipines. He became a machinist after his time in the service, and worked for various companies, including International Harvester and we both worked at Griffith Tool Company in Villa Park.

Meanwhile, Dorothy ran a Candy Kitchen located in a small Mall on the west side of Villa Park on St. Charles Road. Don and I both made molds for the various candies produced for the Kitchen. She sold locally, and also shipped her specialty candies and lollypops all over the world. We also helped out by making local deliveries.

Don also worked later on in his career for Bob Briscoe’s Sign business. His last job was in electrical maintenance for the Central DuPage Hospital. He retired from CDH in 2002.

One of the advantages of working at Griffith with Don was his helpful mentoring on the job; Don gave me a lot of help on metal working, as my original training was in electronic engineering. He also tutored me in Ham radio, taking me along on some Field Days to help fuel the generator. He and Dorothy were very generous, giving me electronic kits and other equipment items as gifts. I still have a sound generator and frequency meter he gave me.

Finally, here is a copy of his obituary from the Villa Park Argus:

Donald Jay Drake, 83, a World War II veteran, died Sunday, July 12th, at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital. He was an amateur radio operator for many years, with the call sign K9VGN, and was an active member of the York and Wheaton radio clubs. He lived in Villa Park since 1956, and worked as a machinist and electrician, most recently at Central DuPage Hospital. He was preceded in death by his parents, Leon and Grace, his brothers Reginald, Edwin, and Carl, and his sister Iris. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Dorothy Jean, his brothers Leon and William, his sisters Barbara (Lew Allen), Leona (Herr), and Mary (Helstrom), and numerous nieces and nephews. Services will be private.

Palmer Goodwin



More fun at the Christmas
Party



IT WILL SOON BE TIME TO RENEW YOUR DUES IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO. REMEMBER THAT ONLY PAID UP MEMBERS MAY VOTE.

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY



SCOTT
CAROL

KB9IYY
KB9FYL

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.



THE WCRA 2009 CHRISTMAS PARTY



JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 7th: 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.
- 8th Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145..31. This month's program will be the Hamfest.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for February.
- 28th 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 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 (-) unless it isn't.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting January 8, 2010, 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