



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 557

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Does anyone know where this man can be found? He won the Grand Prize at our Mid-Winter Hamfest.

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

BECOME RADIOACTIVE WITH WCRA!

It is time to renew your annual WCRA Dues. Near the end of the HamLetter you will find a Membership Application that you may print and fill in and bring to the next meeting with appropriate coin of the realm.



Hamfest Sign above entry door

**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 8.12 and Photoshop CS3

We can then publish an up-to-date club roster. Send in your dues if you have not already done so.

Don't forget the Sunday night club net on the 2 meter repeater at 2000 hours each week. See you February 5th.



**From the President's
Gavel**

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

President's Column February 2010

We begin this column with a sad note. The mother of Frank Krozel, KG9H passed away this week. Frank is a long time, highly respected member of our club. He can also be called on to solve the most difficult technical problems. Our deepest sympathies to Frank on his loss, but we take comfort knowing his mother is in the hands of the Lord. Quoting Wayne Kiser, KF9JC in closing: "My health fails; my spirit droops, yet God remains. He is the strength of my heart, Psalm 73:26.

Hamfest 2010 – great success. John Faber, WT9Y repeated the great success of last year. A big thank you to Steve Peterson, N9OA, who again put together the manpower to keep the pandemonium to a minimum. Finally – thanks to all club members who helped. More members help with the Hamfest than any other event. Who would like to take my place in the rain, ice ,snow or whatever comes at 5 am next year? Maybe there will be a large, well lit, entrance sign next year. Read about it elsewhere in this issue.

A note of appreciation to all club members who have volunteered to keep club equipment at their own location. However, our club custodian, Bob Krueger, W9BK, needs to get an itemized list from you so we can have an accurate inventory of what we have. Please do so soon.

You will be pleased to know that our club is growing and the way to show this is when you pay your dues.

WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA
WCRA
Secretary



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Minutes for the Regular Meeting of January 2010
Held January 8, 2010, First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson
and Ellis, Wheaton, IL

In Attendance: W9UZ, WT9Y, N9OA, W9BK, KC9IJO,
KB9RTO, KA9RVS, N9MWF, KA0DSF, NE9ET,
W9DHX, N9QGV, W9DBX, N9OJL, AB9RN, W9TTS,
KA9KDC, KB9FYL, NJ9E, N9HDW, WA9VAA, N9NYX,

N9CBA, W9NJM

CALL TO ORDER

Call Presiding Officer 7:30

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS

Introductions	Entire Assembly	All present introduced themselves
Opening Remarks	Any Board Member	Ken had to work this evening and will not be in attendance
Announcement of program	John, WT9Y	Tonight's program will be the Hamfest.

BREAK FOR PROGRAM AND REFRESHMENTS Suspended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer KB9RTO, N9QGV

OFFICER REPORTS

President	Mark, W9UZ	No report.
Vice President	John, WT9Y	No report.
•		Future Meeting programs
Secretary	Steve, N9OA	Executive Board meeting on Hamfest setup Saturday 5:00 PM
Treasurer	Ken, N9HQ	(via SMS message to N9OA)
•Bank Account balances	Checking:	Approx. \$4500; Money Market: Aprox.\$21,000
Property Custodian	Bob, W9BK	No report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Service Steve, N9OA Our next event will likely be MS Walk followed by Special Olympics and the Wheaton July 4th Parade. I would like to add to our list of events so that we have more opportunities to practice what we do and to give the CSU more opportunities to "stretch its legs", please contact me if you have any ideas.

CSU John, N9MWF

Hamfest John, WT9Y The Hamfest was tonight's program. Please contact John if you have any additional questions.

QST-Feb.'10—News about the Call 4U1UN

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

Ever wonder about an unusual call sign combination that didn't seem to match any national format? For example, 4U1UN—that's because it is a UN station! Read about it on pages 77 and 78 of the February issue. The article explains about the opportunities of a truly "international" call sign and station.

CW Still Lives – Mechanical Keys Reviewed from Straight to “Bugs”

Three pages are devoted to what those dot and dash makers are all about, with the author's straight key diagrammed. He also shows great photos of classic brass pounding machines and a vintage Vibroplex. You can review these on pages 33-35.

Antenna of the Month – An “Avian Stealth Loop” Made to Confuse the Neighbors and Birds. “Flagpole” antennas are a common stealth device, but how about a “bird house” that holds a 2-meter magnetic loop antenna. It obviously meets the building codes of the home owners association. WOES tells his neighbors that the wires are for his proposed weather station. The story is on page 20.

Antique Radio Bonanza and Ernie Hite's Collection

The average ham may have one or two old radios that or she treasures, but the late Ernie Hite, KB4KFL, had most of his house filled with shelves of old radios . Twenty of the shelves are displayed on the current QST pages 97 and 98.

Want to Be a Ham Radio “Radio Control” Pilot?

Peter Carr, WW3O, has all the qualifications to put a model plane in the sky, and will be happy to share the story about remote radio control flying with you on pages 69 to 71. Motorized flight is a little more complicated than the gliders we saw performing “high on a windy hill” last Field Day. The author uses an electric powered model plane.

The “Right Kind” of a DXpedition Site – Tuvalu Island in the South Pacific

The pages of QST have been filled with stories of teams of operators braving dangerous voyages to “hard to reach” islands in difficult locations. Two west coast hams, N7OU and W7YAQ, decided that they would find a pleasant location that was also “rare DX”. The small island nation of Tuvalu (which used to be known as the Ellice Islands) was chosen. Three colorful pages (64-66) reporting this adventure will entertain you.

HAMFEST PICTURES

Doug, W9NJM, setting up sound for the Hamfest



About ready to open



Welcome to the Hamfest



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HAMFEST!

by John, WT9Y

The warmer weather helped us avoid a major snow removal cost but the rainy weather made for a soggy Sunday. Total attendance at the Hamfest was about the same as last year. Fewer advanced tickets were sold but door tickets sales made up the difference.

We had four forums this year compared to last years three. This is an area we want to continue expanding to provide an educational opportunity along with the usual Hamfest activities.

As most of you are aware, this Hamfest was a sell out and sold out 10 days prior to the Hamfest. We will be discussing with Kane County Fairgrounds the use of the other exhibition hall. We would like to accommodate all qualified commercial and flea market vendors who want to attend.

We will be reviewing some the personal experiences at the Hamfest at our club meeting this Friday and we will have a more detailed breakdown of the Hamfest income and expenses. We will also have a raffle for worker prizes, which will include items left over from the Hamfest as well as an item specially purchased for this raffle.

I would like to thank all of you who worked at the Hamfest. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. This is the only income producing activity our club holds each year. Special thanks go to the Hamfest committee members Bob W9BK, Steve N9OA, Mark W9UZ, Peter N9HDW, Kurt KB9RTO, Jim W9DHX, Roberto WA9E, Ken N9HQ, Rich N9DKO, Tom N9WBW, Doug W9NJM and Bill K9WH. Thank you for all your help.

DON DRAKE SCHOLARSHIP HAMFEST SALES BIG HIT

WCRA Members and Hamfest Visitors enjoyed the November Auction leftover bargains at the 2010 Hamfest. Thanks to all buyers who made this a financial success with their purchases and “cleaned the tables”. The fund will now support a full eight years of award activity—three years past the original five donated by Don’s Family.

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY TO FRANK, KG9H

The Membership of the Club wishes to extend sympathy to Frank and his family on the death of his mother, Eleanor Theresa Krozel, who died on Friday, January 29th. Her visitation services were at the Williams-Kampp Funeral home in Wheaton and attended by many of Frank's friends from the WCRA community. Mrs. Krozel was preceded in death by her husband, Frank, Sr., and made her home in DesPlaines.



Mr. Money Bags and Helper



Club Awards John, N9MWF Looking at some awards. We will be creating a duplicate plaque and displayed in the CSU. Also, a plaque will be worked on to acknowledge the donations made to our CSU and past vehicles.

Field Day Dale, NJ9E It will be in June. It will not be Green Valley. It will likely be at Panfish Park

Christmas Party Dale, NJ9E We had one.

Hamletter Don, N9NYX If you are not receiving it, give your e-mail address to Don, Also would like articles.

RAB Don, N9NYX Working internally on a few things. We measured some things including power consumption. Tom bought something. The repeater system consumes 135 watts. During a 19 days, the repeater was used 3316 minutes and 7754 key-ups. Awaiting the amplifier for the '.31 repeater.

Website Tom, N9WBW Absent. Per John, WT9Y, Tom says it is working.

Training Charlie, WB9SGD

Membership Paul, KA9RVS Have two new members. Motion to vote in (W9DHX, KB9RTO). Renewal forms are available.

VE Program 4th Thursday, monthly except November and December when it is the 3rd Thursday

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer Kb9RTO, N9HDW, passed

OLD BUSINESS

By-Laws Committee Tom, N9WBW Absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Additional Business Appointment of nomination committee (President, Secretary and Property Custodian are open) Jim Ward, W9DHX will chair the nominating committee. See Jim if you are interested in running for office.

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS

Jim Ward has brought 25 items from the Drake auction to be given away to those in attendance.

Meeting broke to break and program at 7:53 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer (NE9ET, N9QVG) passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY



JOHN K9FID

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.

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Membership Application

P.O. Box QSL, Wheaton, Illinois 60189

Dues

Office Use Only

Full Member \$26
Student/Senior Citizen \$13
Associate (No License) \$13
Club Badge \$7

Year Amt Paid
Check Cash
New Renew
Membership Type Full Associate
Student Sr Citizen
Family:
Full member call sign:
Name on Badge.....

Family Memberships Available

Name _____ Call Sign _____

License Class _____ Expiration Date _____

Address _____ Apartment # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home (_____) _____ Business (_____) _____

EMAIL Address _____

ARRL Member Yes OR No (Please Circle One)

Sponsor (new members only) _____

WHAT CLUB EVENTS WILL YOU VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES FOR?

Please circle those which you might be interested in working or serving as a Committee Member

HAMFEST (January)	FIELD DAY (June)	VE TESTING	JULY 4TH PARADE
PICNIC (Aug)	CHRISTMAS PARTY	TRAINING	MEMBER RETENTION
ASSISTANCE (Elmer)	CLUB TRAILER		

OTHER _____

COMMENTS _____

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 4th: 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.
- 5th Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145..31. John, WT9Y, will be making a presentation on Ham Radio resources on the internet followed by a video made at the FCC Forum at the Dayton Hamfest in 2007 featuring Riley Hollingsworth
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for March.
- 25th 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 February 5, 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:

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