



HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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THE 440 MACHINE IS BACK UP AND OPERATING

Several weeks ago several people began to wonder where the 440 machine has disappeared to. There was discussion among the RAB members and it was decided that a visit to the repeater site would be necessary. The York Radio Club and WCRA share a space in the radio/repeater room high atop the Esplanade Building at roughly I-355 and Butterfield Road. Larry, KA9KDC is also a member of York and he learned that the York Radio Club was also planning site visit to their 440 machine. We coordinated our visit with our contact who manages the room and he was very happy that both clubs could visit the site simultaneously. Although somewhat crowded, both clubs were able to work around each other and accomplish their assigned tasks.

For some reason our repeater was not putting out any kind of signal. Immediately your thoughts go to a lightning strike or some catastrophic failure. None of the team knew exactly what we would find. Basically our 440 machine consists of an ICOM Repeater and an external heavy duty power supply. Along with the duplexers, all of these items are included in cabinet that stands about four feet high.

Larry was able to determine that after recycling the power switch on the power supply we were able to get 13.8 volts DC out of the external power supply. He then determined that the ICOM internal power supply was functioning normally when plugged into AC power. He checked all the fuses on both the repeater and the external power supply. Nothing amiss with the fuses. Larry tried the internal power supply and the repeater sprung to life. He reconnected the external power supply and we crossed our collective fingers. Threw the power switch and got nothing. Either the external power supply is shutting down when a load is placed on it or some internal circuitry in the repeater was rejecting the external 13.8 volts DC.

A decision was made in the interests of keeping the repeater on the air that we would switch to the internal power supply and wait for that part of the repeater to fail before pulling both units out of the cabinet and getting them off site for some diagnostic checks. This way we once again have one of the premiere sounding and coverage 440 machines back up and running.

Please see the pictures on page 7 to get a better feel for what Larry was working with and around in the close quarters that we share with York Radio Club and other commercial repeaters.

Please enjoy your renewed 440 machine.

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.

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
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**From the President's
Gavel**

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

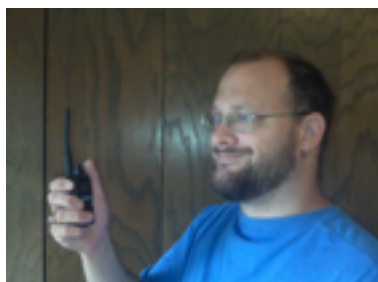
The March meeting of our Club is one of the most important meetings of the year. It is the month before the April elections. Our nominating committee Chairman, Jim Ward, W9DHX has been feverishly working behind the scenes trying to come up with a fine slate candidates for a number of positions. These include spots on the Executive Board, Repeater Administrative Board and committee heads. This "new blood" will lead us into the future for the next two years. Please send any suggestions to Jim.

Taking over as President 2 years ago, I sensed there was a division of loyalties between the CSU (trailer) and the Repeater Administration Board (RAB). I feel this is no longer the case. It appears to me that everyone is pulling together to form a stronger club. Equipment improvement money was asked for by the RAB. It was approved almost immediately by the Executive Board. Construction on the CSU is moving slowly, but it is moving in the right direction. See you Friday.

REMEMBER TO FILL OUT THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TOWARD THE END OF THIS HAMLETTER AND BRING IT TO FRIDAY'S MEETING WITH YOUR RENEWAL CHECK.

WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA
WCRA
Secretary



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Minutes for the Regular Meeting of February 2010
Held Friday, February 4, 2010, First Presbyterian Church,
Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL

In Attendance: W9UZ, WT9Y, N9OA, N9HQ, W9BK,
KC9IJO, KB9RTO, KA9RVS, NE9ET, N9WBW AJ9M,
N9MWF, N9QGV, WA9VAA, N9CBA, KA9KDC,
KB9FYL, N9DKO, WB9SGD, KA0DSF, W9NJM,
W9DHX

CALL TO ORDER

Call Presiding Officer 7:30

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS

Introductions Entire Assembly

Opening Remarks Any Board Member

Announcement of program John, WT9Y Tonight's program will be a presentation on a FCC presentation at Dayton by Riley Hollingsworth, and websites that John wanted the club to be aware of.

BREAK FOR PROGRAM AND REFRESHMENTS Deferred to after Hamfest report

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer KB9RTO, KC9IJO: passed

OFFICER REPORTS

President Mark, W9UZ No report.

Vice President John, WT9Y No report.

- Future Meeting programs Scott Childers will be doing the history of WLS radio at a future meeting, A presentation on AMSAT, and building a project. Always has backup material

Secretary Steve, N9OA No report.

Treasurer Ken, N9HQ

- Bank Account balances Bank Balances where covered. See the treasurer for details.

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 In a stand still due to weather. Has been working on pre-wiring of 12vdc electrical system. The deep cycle batteries have been procured and the Powergates have been installed. There will be two busses allowing either source to either bus. The pneumatic mast will be installed when the weather breaks.

Hamfest John, WT9Y John is still recovering. We did very well. Net revenue is approx-

imately the same as last year, but snow removal was not required. Steve awarded worker prizes.

Club Awards	John, N9MWF	No report.
Field Day	Dale, NJ9E	Absent
Christmas Party	Dale, NJ9E	Absent
Hamletter	Don, N9NYX	Absent
RAB	Don, N9NYX	No report
Website	Tom, N9WBW	We are now on Facebook (Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs), Twitter (WCRA)
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	No report
Membership	Paul, KA9RVS	Motion to bring in WA9SYW: N9OA, N9MWF. Passed
VE Program		21 applicants at the Hamfest, 15 got upgrades or new licenses. 2 applicants at the regular session and both passed.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Entertain Motion	Presiding Officer	KB9RTO, N9WBW. Passed.
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OLD BUSINESS

By-Laws Committee	Tom, N9WBW	
Nominating Committee	Jim, W9DHX	See Jim if you are interested in being Property Custodian, Secretary, or President

NEW BUSINESS	Tom	has been noticing that our financials are in the newsletter. Motion to not include financial details in public forums. N9WBW, KB9RTO passed.
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Additional Business

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS

ADJOURNMENT

Entertain Motion	Presiding Officer	N9WBW, N9QGV passed. Adjourned 9:12
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**THE THREE OFFICES THAT WE NEED TO HAVE
PEOPLE STEP FORWARD AND FILL NOMINA-
TIONS FOR ARE:
PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
CUSTODIAN
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT
JIM WARD.**

THANK YOU

Sometimes it's not often enough that we have the chance to say thank you for an appreciated kind deed. Well, today is fortunately one of those days! I would like to send a sincere Thank You to Jim Ward, W9DHX.

I unfortunately was admitted to Central DuPage Hospital on an emergency basis for what I would come to find out was an aneurism behind my left knee. Soon, several blood clots blocked the flow of blood to my foot. The pain was intense.

During the week, I was lying in bed and received a telephone call from a friend I had never met. It was Jim Ward. Jim introduced himself and let me know he was from WCRA. He was extending his well wishes for a speedy recovery.

Jim took time from his busy schedule while I was in the hospital to touch base and extend his wishes. Although Jim had never met me, he went out of his way to treat me like family. Jim's kindness, compassion and thoughtfulness were a nice surprise and truly appreciated. Orrin has rejoined our club after many years. Welcome back, Orrin Atkinson, WA9VAA!

NOMINATIONS NEEDED NOW!

Just like our governmental elections, Club elections start the same way – we have to have nominees for the Club Offices. However, we don't go to the polls, we just tell the nomination chairman the names of members we think would do a good job.

And to do that—you might need a refresher on what those jobs entail—so printed below are the three job descriptions. As you know, each one is important and vital to the continued success of the Club. So let's hear it from you. And thanks to those who have already made nominations. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Jim Ward, W9DHX

QST March 2010- The Antenna Issue Is Here!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

No less than the Cover and six articles on Antennas are in this month's issue...

A GROUND PLANE EXPERIENCE REPORT –it covers four pages starting on 30 and describes three rounds of tests by Rudy Severns made in his back yard.

AN INVERTED “L” STEALTH ANTENNA –it is so well designed it is hard to find it in the pictures that illustrate the article on pages 34 and 35!

A “MINI-HORSE” ANTENNA –perhaps it should be called a “colt”. The author has designed it using fishing rod parts and the diagrams on pages 37 and 38 make it look easy to build.

ANTENNA ELEVATION PATTERNS GET ATTENTION –Joel Hallas, W1ZR, explains the angles of good radiation on page 39 and 40. Those wave patterns are fascinating.

ANTENNAS AWAY FROM HOME – Take your wire and portable mounts with you on your next trip. Joel Hallas does a second article on pages 44 to 46 on portability on land or sea.

FINALLY, STORE-BOUGHT REMOTE ANTENNA TUNERS—Phil Salas, AD5X, goes over what you can buy to run by “remote” operation. He uses a 43 foot vertical for the testing.

FEMALE PRESIDENT – KAY CRAGIE, N3KN, TO BE FIRST TO RUN ARRL

Page 13 has two photos of Ms. Cragie. She has an engaging smile and may bring some changes to the organization. It happened at the January Board meeting, and there will be more details of her election in the next issue.

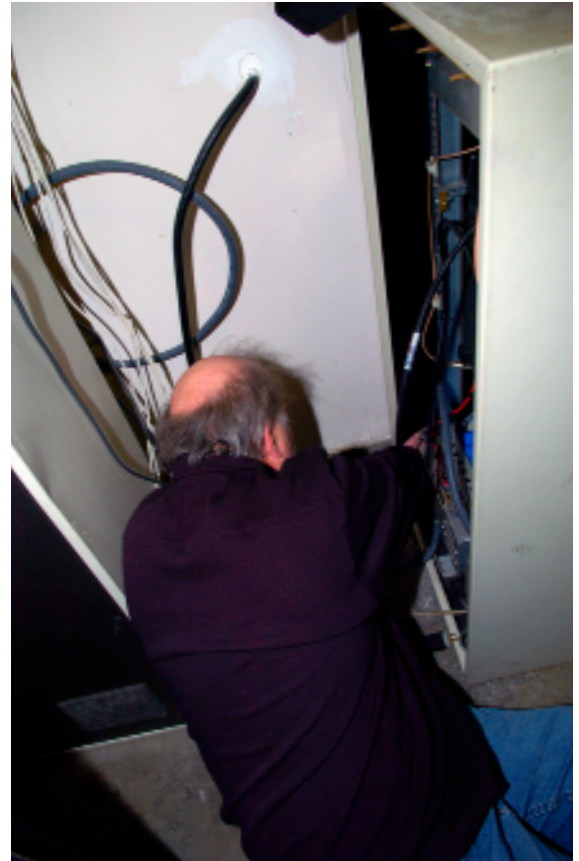
DX IN PARADISE –THE VIRGIN ISLANDS AND THE HAM RADIO SCENE

Harold Kramer, Chief Operating Officer of the ARRL, went on a vacation to the U.S. Virgin Islands, so had a good chance to see what is going on there. On pages 65 and 66, he explains how this “US Territory” is also a much sought-after DX contact.

ENJOY THE “SURGE”—30,144 HAM LICENSES ISSUED IN 2009

The chart on page 71 tells the story. It was a 7.4% increase over 2008. Credit is due to the 32,411 Volunteer Examiners that contributed to the increase. Technicians lead the pack with 334,245 of the total licenses (682,500) now in force.

PICTURES FROM THE 440 REPEATER SITE VISIT SHOWING LARRY, KA9KDC WORKING IN CRAMPED SPACES.



YOUR CLUB MEMBERS WORKING NEXT TO US IN A JOINT SITE VISIT.

THE YORK CLUB'S REPEATER IS NEXT TO OURS



BELOW LEFT YOU CAN SEE THE EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLY BELOW THE ICOM 440 REPEATER. LARRY HAS TO LAY ON FLOOR TO ATTACH THE WIRING.



OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF MARCH



KURT	KB9RTO
MIKE	N9KYG
BOB	W9TIE
BRUCE	KA0DSF

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: _____

MARCH 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. The program will be a presentation of amateur radio resources on the internet.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for April.
- 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 March 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:

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

First Class Mail