



# HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
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## FLORIDA CLUB MEMBER RETURNS FROM DAYTON WITH A NEW LOOK

By John, W4FID

Been a few weeks since I got back from Dayton with the Collins. But had to do a few "Martha projects" in order to maintain domestic tranquility and the new gear needed a few things ..... so it was on the dining room table a couple weeks. Also reorganized the ham desk extensively including complete wiring and lightning protection. Have the 110 on a strip under the desk along the back side. Have wire troughs along the back too so it's all organized and clean. Even labeled all the cables and jumpers. Have a grounded bar with SO-239s for each antenna that's easy to reach from the rear/side; gas discharge tube arrestors outside the wall where the coax feeds come thru; several ground rods all tied together; a line voltage monitor and a variac for the Collins station. Sure hope I don't lose the roof to a hurricane. That would suck! hihi.

Had it on the air for the first time today -- on the Collins net on 20 this afternoon. Got great reports. Also had a local guy with a 10 kilobuck Yeasu listen to me and set the ALC and check the freq drift. Said it was nice and clean and very solid. Looking like it will be fun.

In the pix with the dust covers are a couple little touches that are fun but the camera didn't catch real well. The Levitra tissue box next to the old station. Do not let it be said hams cannot do it with frequency. And a Collins gold leaf winged emblem logo leather dust cover on the D-104. Never saw one before. I suspect it came with



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

**President** Steve, N9OA  
**Vice President** John, WT9Y  
**Secretary** Kevin, AB9RN  
**Treasurer** Ken, N9HQ  
**Custodian** Bruce, KA0DSF

**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

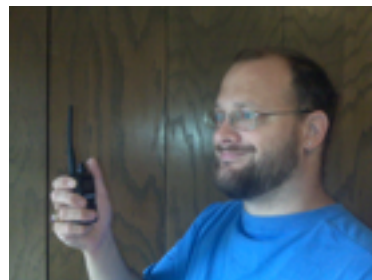
**HAMLETTER**

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## From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

Friends,

Summer is officially here! It is time to use those radios that you spent all winter working on.

As of the time of writing, preparations are underway for Field Day, and as of the time you read this we will know the success that was our Field Day operation. Forth of July is around the corner, and help is still needed. Please notify me (putting on my Public Service hat) if you are available.

We have had two successful meetings thus far with some quality programming offered. Our able vice president, John, WT9Y, has announced that our program for July will be the building of roll-up J-Pole wire antennas for your favorite VHF/UHF band. This will be a workshop style program offering the opportunity for members to build their antenna. Please contact John for further details.

The board has recently met and decided – among other things – to cancel the August meeting rather than have a picnic program for the meeting. In lieu of the meeting, we will be holding a picnic the following day with some great food offered along with activities to make a day of it. This promises to be an awesome event.

THE CLUB IS ALWAYS LOOKING  
AND IN NEED OF PEOPLE TO VOLU-  
TEER FOR VARIOUS POSITIONS. IF  
INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT  
ANY OF THE OFFICERS. WHO  
KNOWS IT MAY BE A CHANCE TO  
START A LIFETIME JOB.....

**WCRA**  
**Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
 Kevin, AB9RN  
 WCRA  
 Secretary



**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs**  
**Agenda for June 4, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Presiding Officer N9OA

In attendance: N9OA, WT9Y, AB9RN, N9HQ, KA0DSF, NJ9E, N9MWF, W9DHX, N9CBA, N9NA, NV9R, AJ9M, W9BK, KA9KDC, KB9FYL, W9UZ, K9WXV, N9HDW, N9NYX, W9NJM

Approval of Agenda

Presiding Officer Approved by Unanimous Consent

**INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS**

Introductions Entire Assembly All present introduced themselves  
 Opening Remarks Any Board Member  
 Announcement of program John, WT9Y Dale NJ9E to facilitate discussion on field day activities

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer N9HDW noted FT1000 needs to be corrected to reflect correct tx power of 100 watts rather than 50. N9NA seconded the motion to approve the minutes once amended and it passed.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

President Steve, N9OA President noted that we would have a board meeting on 6/12 11AM at residence of N9HQ.  
 Vice President John, WT9Y Looking at options for topic at next meeting.  
 Secretary Kevin, AB9RN No report.  
 Treasurer Ken, N9HQ Report given. Bank Account balances  
 Property Custodian Bruce, KA0DSF No report.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Public Service Steve, N9OA Fourth of July parade planning. Role changing to help with staging of the parade. Tour de Cure for American Diabetes on 6/13  
 CSU John, N9MWF Looking to complete 12 volt power supply modifications by field day  
 Hamfest John, WT9Y Same time will be used next year. Radio Expo announced hamfest table prices of \$8 (advanced) and \$10 at the door which we will likely use as well next time.  
 Club Awards John, N9MWF Trying to find a time to meet with Joe LeFebvre to hang Drake scholarship plaque in the CSU  
 Field Day Dale, NJ9E Deferred to program  
 Christmas Party Dale, NJ9E Still in December and considering Bavarian Inn again.  
 Hamletter Don, N9NYX Looking for articles. Let him know if you're not receiving it via email.  
 RAB Don, N9NYX Tour De Cure will be allowed to use our repeater on 6/13  
 Website Tom, N9WBW July meeting date is correctly noted as 7/2 on the web site  
 Training Charlie, WB9SGD No report  
 Program John, WT9Y No report  
 Public Relations Mark, W9UZ No report

Membership Paul, KA9RVS Motion to vote for renewals for Bob Briscoe KG9U, Mike Harrington N9KYG, David Verner W6DDJ. Motioned by W9DHX, seconded by N9CBA and the motion passed.  
VE Program No report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** No report

**NEW BUSINESS** Kevin AB9RN proposed to create a paper-based picture directory of members with name and callsign. Nothing will be published on the web site and only a paper copy will be available at the meeting. Executive board approved purchase of field day hats for participants. Join us for field day and get a hat! Orin WA9VAA was in the hospital and is out and doing well.

Nick who is Roberto's WA9E son is not well and Roberto is in Florida tending to his health.

Family of Don Drake appreciate support and is doing well  
Card sent to Joe N9WRO whose daughter (Jenne) is not doing well. She is now on a ventilator at Saint Luke's with ARDS. Doctor indicated that her health is degrading. He appreciated the card and as a club we would ask you to keep her and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

N9HDW has a new Yaesu FT1000MP – 100 Watts contact with offer n9hdw@yahoo.com

N9NA participated in a contest and made 400 contacts.

Starved rock hamfest is this weekend Sunday morning.

**ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer Motion to adjourn by N9CBA and second by NJ9E passed. Adjourned at 8:20.

## MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE COMING YEAR

July - 7/2

Aug - No meeting. Picnic TBA

Sept - 9/10

Oct - 10/1

Nov - 11/5 (Auction)

Dec - No meeting. Holiday Party TBA



their slim line mics when they were new. Since all the gear is winged emblem it's a natural to go with it. Since it was \$0.50 at a resale shop (I'm guessing they didn't have a clue what it was and it's worth more) it's clearly better than the blue cotton Crown Royal bag I was using.

Along the desk left to right is a back-up supply with the MFJ Hi-Q loop antenna control on it and a SWR/PWR meter for the hamstick dipole on top of it and a line voltage monitor meter on top of it. Log books and an atlas. Under the shelf is the IC-746PRO, a Vibroplex keyer, a Vibroplex bug, a 24 hour world clock, the PS-125 which is the primary 12 VDC supply, a variac for the Collins, note paper tray, an analog 12 hour clock, and the rotor control for the Hi-Q loop. On the front of the center shelf support is the display for the PSK - RTTY - CW dedicated interface. On the right side shelf support is the 02AT (35 watt amp isn't visible) that I use for daily 2M. Across the shelf from left to right is the 312B-4 station control, the KWM-2A, and the 516F-2 power supply and a desk lamp (tower style).

Just outside is a 32 foot mast with an Alpha-Delta DX-EE 40 - 20 - 15 - 10 fan inverted Vee. The wire runs east/west and the 90\* apex is at 32 feet. It should favor north/south but hopefully will do OK east/west too. It's low for 40; but as a true inverted vee it should also do OK east/west on 20 and up. Time will tell how it does -- it's new. Have it cut for the SSB portions of the bands and dedicated to the KWM-2A. Have a MFJ Hi-Q loop on another mast at 25 feet. It will tune anything from 30 to 10 meters and is primarily for CW- PSK - RTTY on the 746. It's not "frequency agile -- but with PSK and RTTY you tend to sit on a frequency and it's great for that. If I work a contest where frequency agility is important I'll probably swap the Inverted Vee to the 746 for the weekend. On a 3rd mast is a 40M hamstick dipole that favors north northwest and south southeast. It's up

# MEET OUR NEW SECRETARY

I grew up in Green Bay and have always had an interest in amateur radio which started when a neighbor showed my friends and I his ham shack and exchanged SSTV pictures with other hams across the country. That was very cool back then and my friends and I started a CB club on SSB and used to ride our bikes around the neighborhood asking folks with big base station antennas on their house, if they wanted to get rid of them. Often we lucked out and gathered up a nice collection which we would try on nights when the bands were open. What fun that was talking "skip" and exchanging QSL cards with some fairly odd folks (now that I look at the cards I received).

I attended college at Milwaukee School of Engineering where I became a member of the club station W9HHX and was active throughout college. I also worked several years during that time in broadcast engineering for WTMJ AM 620, WKTI 94.7 and NBC Channel 4 as well as our school radio station WMSE 91.7 FM. Any "tan" I had back then was more likely due to radio frequency exposure than the sun!

After college I started working for Sprint back when PCS and CDMA mobile networks were just getting started. I worked in the RF Engineering field for many years and transferred to Chicago to start the network here along the way. I later worked for the 4G WiMAX division of Sprint which was spun off and merged with what was our competitor, Clearwire. Today I'm a Manager for the Chicago RF Engineering group and excited to be working on high speed wireless internet and seeing the evolution of the technology.

After several years of not being active in ham radio, I started to work on my upgrade to general and then extra class license. Two years ago a friend of mine talked me into a long weekend at Dayton for the ham fest and have gone last year as well. It was really encouraging to see so many people actively engaged in the hobby despite the distractions with other methods of communication.

I'm married to my wife Sheryl and have four kids which we home school (ages 2,4,6,8). Several of the club members have probably met my son Colin and I'm sure will eventually meet the others as they get a little older and I drag them to the club meetings! When I get on the bands, I usually listen in on 20 and 40 meters and try to mix it up with some voice, data and SSTV contacts. Other hobbies I enjoy are woodworking, software programming and cooking.

As the club's new secretary I look forward to participating in our events and helping keep the hobby strong for us and the next generation!

Kevin - AB9RN

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## FLORIDA MEMBER (Con't)

20 feet. It's new too; so I'll see how it does. Half the country and 2/3 of the US population and a lot of the Caribbean are in the pattern ..... so I'm hopeful it will be fun. There are a LOT of stations within 1,000 miles of here in those directions -- so even a shortened antenna that's too low should allow me to work some-one. Also since it will be used for CW and PSK -- mostly week days -- I'll get by better than if I was slugging it out weekends on phone. On top of that mast is a 2M J-pole. Best part is the trees it's all under are 2 or 3 times the heights and block a lot of the view ..... hopefully do a little lightning protection ..... and I am gambling keep it all neighbor friendly enough so I get by. (Bottom of page 11)

# PAST PRESIDENT POTTER GETS RECOGNITION PLAQUE

Mark Potter, W9UZ, immediate past president of WCRA, displays his traditional “gavel” plaque as his reward for two years of service in the president’s role. Doing the honors at the 2010 Field Day site on Saturday afternoon was Steve Peterson, current WCRA president.



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## 2010 FIELD DAY SETS ‘HIGH FLYING’ RECORDS WITH BALLOON ASSISTANCE

Dale, NJ9E, this year’s Field Day Chairman, reached for new heights this year, and with the help of Kevin, AB9RN, and a couple of helium balloons, W9CCU took to the skies.

Balloon No. 1 provided the high elevation for an inverted V antenna.

Balloon No. 2 put two photographic demonstrations in the sky. On Saturday, a balloon took at 2.4 gig “Cap Camera” up to provide low level pictures of the FD site. On Sunday, Kevin put more helium in the photo balloon to hold the weight of a sophisticated combination still and video photo mission that went to an estimated 200 feet at its highest point.

The video transmitting system used a Canon 6 pixel digital camera with a VideoLynx UHF transmitter on 434 megs. A remote control device handled the shutter as well as “Tilt and Pan” functions. George, KA3 HSW, took time off from his satellite station to assist on the remote operations. John, WT9Y, gave a hand with the balloon launch chores.

Hauling in the balloon in the wild and capricious winds caused some problems. As Kevin and son Colin brought the precious instrument package down it snagged the balloon for the 20 meter phone antenna. An upward gust finally pulled it away. Then a downdraft caught the package and it plunged within inches of a dunking in the “Little Panfish Pond” formed by the heavy rains! A lucky “updraft” saved the day and safe capture and “Mission Accomplished”.

# CQ Field Day DE W9CCU 5A IL

## 40 Phone and Logging Network

Peter Richie N9HDW Captain  
John Faber WT9Y Co Captain  
Ken Kwasniewsky N9HQ Captain

## 40 Phone / 15 Phone

## PSK31, Remote TV and Air Lift

Kevin Oleniczak AB9RN Captain and Chief of Balloon Operations.

## 40/80 CW

John Siepmann N9NA Captain  
Mark Potter W9UZ Co-Captain

## 20 Phone/CW

Dale Kwarta NJ9E Captain  
Hal Dennin AC3Q Co-Captain  
George Henry KA3HSW Captain

## Satellite Operations

## Chief of the CSU

John Cheney N9MWF

## Staff - Set Up, Tear Down, and Operators:

Steve Peterson N9OA, Viktor Kartashov AJ9M,  
Victor V Carter K9WXV, Bob Krueger W9BK,  
Greg Schmit WA9SGF, S. Kishna Dronamraju KR1SH,  
Bob Schlotzer NV9R, Paul Lubinski KA9RVS

## Food Support

Nancy, Mary, Carol

**Last but not least !** Jim Ward W9DHX - Photographer, Publicist, Procurement Officer, Chief of Public Relations, and Elder Statesman.

## The Field Day site was visited by old friends and many interested party's.

Bob Seaburg W3MDM, Bob Firchau W9TIE, Tara Kwarta KB9FYF, Rick Karney W9DBX, Linda Karney N9OJL, Neil Ormos N9NL, Bruno Dovilas WA9CUK, Rich Binks KE9TP, Ruth Kwarta KA9RZG, Jeff, Linda, Claire, Kristen and Maggie Koenig

This year we tried some new technologies and antenna arrangements. Sky Hook Balloons were a lot of fun and we hope to do it again next year. There was a strange array of wire antennas and verticals. All the stations were linked together by a wireless network with associated software. This gave us the opportunity to see a running log of all contacts made during field day.

This proved to be one of our wettest Field Days. We had heavy rain, lightning, soggy fields, humidity and a cool 90 degree afternoon temperature. It was a real test of our endurance.

We will do it all again next year!

73

Dale NJ9E - Field Day Chairman









# **QST-July 2010-It's BSA Jamboree On The Air!**

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **COVER STORY TELLS IT IN PICTURES—THE SCOUTS CONVENE IN VIRGINIA**

Starting on Page 65, you can read a well-illustrated three page article about the goings on that will take place at Fort A. P. Hill, just outside of Fredericksburg, Va. On July 26th to August 4th. the call letters K2BSA will bring ham radio to Scouts in attendance. Some Scouts will be qualifying for the “Radio” merit badge, others just getting a taste of an exciting hobby to last a lifetime. The “every four year” Jamboree began in 1937, with Amateur Radio getting on the scene in the 1970's. For more information on K2BSA, go to [www.bpmlegal.com/k2bsa.html](http://www.bpmlegal.com/k2bsa.html).

## **SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST RESULTS ARE IN**

Three different Scripts for year 2009 Tests are described in the current issue on pages 69-71. This year's test will be on October 2 and 3, or on a date that works out best for the participants. DuPage County 2009 Test Results are not reported in QST, but Kane (N9CV) scored 242 points under the Illinois score results.

## **PRODUCT REVIEW—YAESU –FT DX 9000 MP**

Norm Fusaro, W31ZM takes a look at this new unit. This is Yaesu's “flagship transceiver”, offering a 400 watt transmitter and a full suite of features and functions. Hardware and firmware upgrades, according to Fusaro, have made the radio even better.

## **DAYTON REVISITED---A REVIEW OF WHAT WENT ON AT ARRL EXPO**

About 20,000 hams made it to Dayton –if you didn't make it, you still can read all about it on pages of this month's QST, starting on page 61. Everything from tasty clam chowder to hot roasted cinnamon nuts is reported by Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA of the ARRL staff. You'll also find a product report by Joel Hallas, W1ZR.

## **FIND THAT FOX ---SAFELY!**

In the thrill of the chase in fox hunting, sometimes the excitement overlooks safety considerations. On page 20, you'll find a couple of good ideas about being sure that all the participants use good safety practices so that your “fox” doesn't get blown up by a police bomb squad. Also some good photos of a well-designed “fox”.

## **WORRIED ABOUT A LIGHTNING STRIKE? READ AND LEARN ON PAGE 40**

Jim Talens, N3JT, learned that lesson the hard way—even after he disconnected all cables and lines that led into his shack from the outside. Read how he recovered in “A Simple and Effective Approach to Station Grounding”.

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Extensive kidney tests tomorrow. No signs of trouble ..... but always a worry. Hope I didn't do all this for short term. Plan du Wiley is to enjoy this sunspot cycle and hopefully the next one too.

Hope you and all yours are well.

John

# HAM RADIO COMMUNITY PAYS TRIBUTE TO DAUGHTER OF N9WRO

It was with a great deal of sadness that the amateur radio community received the news that Jennae LeFebvre, daughter of Joe LeFebvre, had succumbed to respiratory failure as a result of complications from surgery. Members of the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management paid formal tribute in a ceremony Tuesday evening at a visitation event at the Malone funeral home in Geneva. Many other members were on hand during the afternoon with wishes of condolences and for the funeral the following day.

Jennae was 28 years old, and died on June 10th,. Those of the West Suburban area who have known Joe over the years are sharing his grief and are offering to support his efforts to recover from this loss.

Former WCRA president and Chaplain for the OHS/EM, Wayne Kiser, commented:"It is the memories that may be the most difficult to handle in these circumstances, but the good deeds and kind words, the little things she would say, will be with you always. May God's Blessings be with her, her beloved Mother Nancy, and with you.

"David, the King of Israel said: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God." Psalm 42: Verse 1."

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## Today's CleanPun - The Sea

What does the sea say to the sand?

Not much. It usually just waves.

## Today's One Liner

"How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?"

## Today's CleanQuote

"Laughter is by definition healthy." -- Doris Lessing

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



JOHN	N9MWF
CAROL	N6YL
BILL	K9WH
DAVID	W9AOK
DALE	NJ9E

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.

## JULY 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. July's program will involve member participation! We will be making portable vhf/uhf antennas utilizing 300 ohm twin lead. We will have the designs, material, solder and solder irons available. I am also working on a simple wire design for boosting the signal of a typical HT. Additional details will follow FD week end.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for August.
- 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. 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 July 2nd, 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

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**First Class Mail**