



HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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“Membership Appreciation Picnic Blast” Set For Blackwell South Meadows – Sat., Aug. 7th

A different theme and a different menu—the WCRA Executive Board picked a “thank you for joining” theme and a triple-treat menu for this year’s picnic at the County’s largest Forest Preserve—Blackwell. The date is a convenient Saturday afternoon, Aug. 7th, stretching from a gathering option of one o’clock in the afternoon to the dinner hour of 5 p.m., and an estimated finishing time of seven in the evening.

The Board has added some new features this year. Due to the generosity of our Ham Brunch Host, Peppercorn’s Restaurant, a Grand Door Prize Gift Certificate will be awarded. There will be three other door prizes—a set of Malibu low voltage lawn lights, a pair of Sylvania Halogen Fog Lights, and a “Bucketeer” Handyman bucket liner and bucket.

Another feature will interest former members. They are welcome to attend with an option of 2010 dues payment at only 50% of the basic rate. Your “admission ticket” needs only to be your dues check at the 50% amount.

Menu choices abound, with three optional entrees below. Dinner hour will be 5 p.m. Choices are:
Italian Sausage with appropriate side dishes to match plus lots of sauce.
Fried Chicken with choice of potatoes and side dishes.
Italian Beef with lots of juice and side dishes.

Bring a dessert to pass if you wish—but this is not mandatory—we may be too full to eat a dessert from the looks of the choices!

Scheduled starting time of 1 p.m. will see cold soda and snacks available. The afternoon activities will range from fox hunting (Blackwell is well known for its fox lairs), badminton, and tether ball. Sailors may be interested in renting boats at the Silver Lake Forest Preserve dock at reasonable rates.

The picnic will also be an excellent opportunity to check the range on your handheld or other portable equipment that has been in storage. Be sure to bring spare batteries!

YOUR COOPERATION IS NEEDED ON RESERVATIONS!

Although there will be no “Fee” for the Picnic attendance, the Board needs to know that you (and how many members of your immediate family) plan to attend. Please made your reservation by e-mail to: sjpete75@gmail.com before July 28. If you would like a map to help you find your way to the picnic site, go to :

www.dupageforest.com

Select Blackwell South from the preserve list, and ask for a map.

Why reservations for this very informal event? Two reasons—we don’t want to order too much—or too little food. Second, we’d like to call those not registering and remind them of the opportunity!
See you there.

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

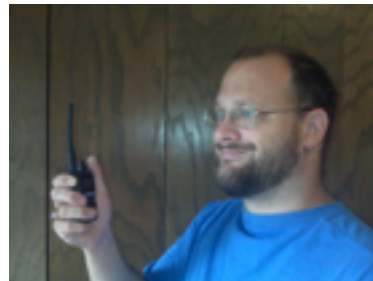
145.310/ 144.710	103.5(1A) or 107.2(1B) PL Encode/Decode
224.140/222.540	Carrier Access
444.475/449.475	114.8 Hz(2A) PL Encode/ Decode

HAMLETTER

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From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

Fellow members and friends, Field Day has passed. Summer is slowly slipping away!

Where has all of the time gone? I would like to thank all of you who came out to our July meeting. For those of you who missed it, there was a lot of fun and conversation to be had by all. We built roll-up J-Pole antennas and pig-tails to make dipoles out of the crumby rubber ducks that come on h-t's.

I have good news and bad news; bad news first. The August meeting normally scheduled for August 6 is cancelled. The good news is that the meeting is being replaced with the club picnic that is going to be the following day. The picnic will kick off at 1:00 at Blackwell South on Saturday, August 7. Dinner will be served at 5:00. A separate e-mail with details of the picnic has been sent to all current, paid-in-full members. If you didn't receive that message, please e-mail me at sjpete75@gmail.com and I will re-send the information.

I also would like to issue an open invitation to each member to contact me at any time with ideas that you may have for club activities, recruitment or any idea that you may have to improve the club. I promise to listen and discuss the matter with the appropriate committee and/or the executive board. My contact information is in the masthead. (sjpete75@gmail.com)

THE CLUB IS ALWAYS LOOKING AND IN NEED OF PEOPLE TO VOLUNTEER 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 July 2, 2010 First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL

CALL TO ORDER

Call Presiding Officer N90A at 7:32 pm

In attendance: N90A, WT9Y, AB9RN, KA0DSF, NJ9E,
N9MWF, W9DHX, N9CBA, N9NA, AJ9M, W9UZ, N9HDW,

W9NJM, KC9IJO, W3MDM, N9WBW, WA9VAA

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 None

Announcement of program John, WT9Y We're going to play with antennas, indoors this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer N9WBW motioned, W9DHX seconded

OFFICER REPORTS

President Steve, N90A None

Vice President John, WT9Y Picnic update.

• Club Picnic Planning the picnic location. It will likely be at Blackwell Forest Preserve.

Secretary Kevin, AB9RN None

Treasurer Ken, N9HQ Not present.

• Bank Account balances

Property Custodian Bruce, KA0DSF Not present.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Service Steve, N90A Reminder that the parade is this weekend. A few volunteers are still needed. Parade starts at noon Sunday the 4th.

CSU John, N9MWF No Report.

Hamfest John, WT9Y Kane county has offered the other half of the expo center for us to sell tables without a fixed cost.

Club Awards John, N9MWF No Report.

Field Day Dale, NJ9E Dale appreciated everyone's participation this year. We reported 2780 points. Jim asked if we could address turf damage at the park we caused. John noted that some grass seed and dirt should help and they would address that this coming week.

Christmas Party Dale, NJ9E No Report.

Hamletter Don, N9NYX No Report.

RAB Don, N9NYX No Report.

Website Tom, N9WBW No Report.

Training Charlie, WB9SGD See below

Program John, WT9Y Antenna building tonight for portable antennas.

Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	No Report.
Membership	Paul, KA9RVS	No Report.
VE Program		

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Mission Statement Steve noted that we would discuss this at one of our upcoming meetings.

Jim offered, there is a weather net on wed nights on 145.31 at 8pm

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS Bob suggested that repeater nets should not be suspended if the repeater happens to be running on battery power due to a power outage in the interest in validating the availability and reach of the repeater. It was noted by N9OA that for social nets like Sunday night's it was appropriate to suspend the net to preserve battery power if severe weather was eminent.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer N9WBW motioned, W9UZ seconded at 8:04 pm.

PROGRAM AND REFRESHMENTS

**MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE
COMING YEAR**

Aug - No meeting. Picnic 8/7/10

Sept - 9/10

Oct - 10/1

Nov - 11/5 (Auction)

Dec - No meeting. Holiday Party TBA

QST REVIEWED—AUGUST 2010

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

MOON BOUNCE CONTACTS ON A BIG SCALE – ARECIBO ON THE AIR

The cover of this month's issue is devoted to a picture of the 1000 foot reflector at Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory—and pages 62 through 65 tell the story of how there were 242 QSO's made in 36 DXCC entities during a three day period, using this gigantic reflector. This facility is operated by Cornell University under a cooperative agreement with the US National Science Foundation.

DELUXE MOTORCYCLE MOBILE PICTURED

Look on page 20 for a shot of how to equip your bike if you are the Chairman of the Motorcycle Amateur Radio Club (MARC). Ray Davis, KD6FHN, has rigged his Gullwing motorcycle for comfort, public service, and promotion of the amateur radio hobby.

ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS –AND SIX WINNING PICTURES

Overall winner this year is an action photo of a Spark Gap transmitter in action—a striking view taken of a reproduction of the original 1910 design. Hal Kennedy of Woodstock, Georgia, built the transmitter and took the photo—a double achievement. Second place winners (a tie) were of mountain scenery and Third (also a tie) went to two antenna scenes with dramatic cloud backgrounds.

EARNING 160 METER WAS IN 117 DAYS—FROM A FLORIDA LOCATON!

It sounds hard to believe, but there is a catch. Greg Crossman, WE0D, built his own 32 foot vertical antenna with an excellent radial field. To add to the convenience, it collapses to a four and a half foot profile so as not to offend his neighbors. On pages 44 and 45 you can read the fascinating story of how he built it.

PUBLIC SERVICE FOR A SNOWMACHINE RACE---BRRRR!

WCRA Public Service sign-ups have a tough time. But working for a snowmachine race from Nome, Alaska, to Golovin at 20 below—that's a tough sign-up. On the other hand, if you have a portable ham shack on runners with a PA system, there is no problem. Read on page 71 about this great adventure for Nome area hams. There were only three requests for helicopter support to handle the three injured racers. Thanks to speedy response they were treated and released. That's a great project successfully handled by the Seward Peninsula Amateur Radio Club (SPARC) .

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST



RICH
JIM
ORRIN

KA9HPL
W9DHX
WA9VAA

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.

AUGUST 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 is cancelled and a picnic at Blackwell Forest Preserve will be held at Hawthorn Grove beginning at 1 PM on August 7th.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for September.
- 26th 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 September 10, 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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First Class Mail