



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 564

Founded 1948

Sept 2010



The Annual WCRA Summer Picnic was again held at Blackwell on August 7th.



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

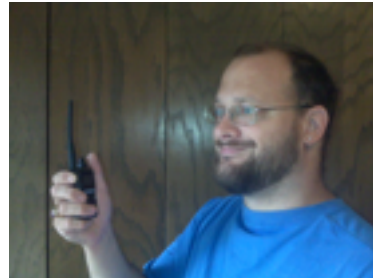
HAMLETTER

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From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

Wow! The summer just seems to have flown by. Cool weather will soon be upon us which seems to be when antennas get installed. Do they really work better when they are installed in cold weather?

Thank you to all of you that joined us at the club picnic. For details, please read Jim's article found later here in the Hamletter. We are looking for recommendations on what event could be done for next year. Be creative any ideas are good ones. John, WT9Y, our esteemed vice president and program chairman assures me that the program for the September 10 meeting. (Oh yeah, a reminder ... the meeting date is changed from September 3 to September 10.)

Before we know it, it will be time for the holiday party, look forward to hearing more about that in the near future.

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



The minutes for the July meeting were published in the August 2010 HamLetter. The Club Picnic was held in lieu of an August General Membership Meeting.

DUPAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE SPONSORS 2010 SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2010.

On Saturday, September 25, 2010 (PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE), the DuPage County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) will sponsor the 2010 Simulated Emergency Test (SET).

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Simulated Emergency Test is a nationwide exercise in emergency communications, administered by ARRL Field Organization leaders including Emergency Coordinators, District Emergency Coordinators, Section Emergency Coordinators and Net Managers. Many other Section Leaders like the Section Manager and the Section Traffic Manager may have a hand in planning the exercises and/or reviewing the results. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), National Traffic System (NTS), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and other public-service oriented groups can be involved.

Here in DuPage County, the DuPage County Amateur Radio Emergency Service inclose cooperation with the DuPage Amateur Radio Club (DARC) and the Weather Officer from the Naperville Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) will conduct a county level exercise that simulates all facets of an actual severe weather event that previously impacted DuPage County. The simulation scenario will be based on actual historical meteorological data and documentation of the original episode.

Participating, trained, severe weather spotters will be deployed within DuPage County in response to the forecasted severe weather conditions. Utilizing actual historical weather forecasts, severe weather advisories, severe weather alerts and interactive photographic aids, the participants will be exposed to the event exactly as it originally impacted DuPage County.

The exercise will focus on spotting and emergency communications capabilities within DuPage County itself utilizing communication assets and pathways currently available locally to DuPage County ARES and the DuPage Amateur Radio Club.

Field participants in this year's SET will be dispatched to pre-selected spotting locations throughout DuPage County in teams of two. At least one member of the team will be a trained severe weather spotter. Each team will need to have the capability to monitor and operate on both 2-meters and 440MHz simultaneously and should have either a mobile radio or handheld with an external mobile antenna.

To culminate nearly four (4) months of pre-planning, we are now soliciting commitments for field participants. You do not need to be a member of the DuPage County ARES to participate and any DuPage County amateur radio operator is encouraged to do so. The field activity will be followed by a debriefing led by Al Fisher, retired meteorologist from the National Weather Service. A box lunch will be served.

To volunteer as a field participant, please respond to this email and indicate whether or not you are a trained severe weather spotter. Volunteer responses need to be received by September 1, 2010.

Michael J. Schulz
W9MJS
Assistant Emergency Coordinator - Operations
DuPage County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

SEPTEMBER MEETING PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Kate Saccany, KC9IQF will be discussing the ham radio logistics and challenges surrounding the Chicago Marathon held in October. Last year was the first year that ham radio operator volunteers provided communications support for the Chicago Marathon in many years. Amateur radio operators will again provide support for this major marathon on October 10. Kate is a member of the Marathon's ham radio leadership team and I am sure some of her insights will be applicable to other amateur radio public service events.

John WT9Y

Program Chairman

FOR SALE ANCHORS

Rohn 25 Tower

New 3' ground section

3 - 10' used sections - no rust

1 - 8' top section with thrust bearing.

Almost flat top with 3 support cable holes.

1 rotor bracket

1 house support bracket.

All new section bolt and nuts.

Very clean. Very good condition. Make a reasonable offer.

Mark Potter w9uz@arrl.net

MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Sept - 9/10

Oct - 10/1

Nov - 11/5 (Auction)

Dec - No meeting. Holiday Party TBA

QST REVIEW-ARES IS 75 AND COUNTING

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

COVER STORY THIS MONTH –Our Emergency Service organization—ARES—gets the once over in the September issue. If you ever had any questions about the history and purpose of the organization, you’ll find the answers on pages 69 through 71. The DuPage ARES has come to life in the past 12 months, and will be running a Simulated Emergency Test (SET). It is NOT on the originally announced date. Mike Schulz, W9MJS, Asst. Emergency Coordinator-ARES DuPage County, explained that the new date will be September 25th, due to a schedule conflict by one of the major participants. WCRA club members interested in joining the test should contact Mike at his e-mail (team@dupageares.org) or by phone (630-762-49216). A separate story will give you detailed information.

HUGE ICOM HS PRODUCT INSERT AND HF BAND PLAN REVISED -- The September issue includes a giant (22” x 34”) insert sponsored by ICOM and containing a colorful HF Band chart, showing all the current allocations. Great for the shack to cover up some cracks in the wallpaper. Be sure to get it up in advance of the Christmas shopping season.

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A U.S. HAM RADIO MANUFACTURER—IT IS MFJ –Most of us think that other than Ten Tech, most Ham equipment is manufactured outside the US. In fact, Starkville, Mississippi, is humming along as a manufacturing site for a lot of amateur radio stuff. QST this month takes you on tour of MFJ’s facility. The article is on pages 59 and 60.

AIR-GOING WIRELESS STORY – This month’s issue contains the first part of a two part series on a spark-gap wireless operator's experiences on an “airship”. The operator was Jack Irwin, and his story is a strange one. Read it in Jack Dilks “Old Time Radio” column on pages 92 and 93.

COLLEGE STUDENT HAMS SET BALLOON FLIGHT RECORD –A reminder of our 2010 Field Day Weather Balloon Flight with TV cameras aboard! Pages 57 and 58 report a remarkable 33 hour, 1100 mile flight organized by some Hams at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. It was a part of their Master's Degree program in Systems Engineering named “Project Blue Horizon”. The balloon reached an altitude of over 125,000 feet and the Altoid tin encased transmitter was a Rock-Mite low power kit unit.

HOW TO MOUNT A HAM ANTENNA ON YOUR RV –Can’t be without a good antenna when you head out with your RV? Pages 34 and 35 give you the answer. Good photos and simple materials will make it possible taking advantage of a special storage space most units have for holding sewer hose! Check your RV; if it has that space, this project is for you.

Today's CleanPun

“Massachusetts: When a Catholic sneezes three times during the church service.”

WCRA PICNICERS BEAT THE HEAT WITH GIANT TENT, PLENTY “OFF” BUG SPRAY

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

A giant white tent was waiting in Blackwell Preserve's southeast meadow when a goodly number of WCRA members and their families arrived on Saturday, August 7th for the Club's annual Picnic Event. The sylvan setting was perfect for a summer outing, and cooling breezes and refreshments minimized the mosquito hazard. The committee had spare cans of insect repellent to offset this year's heavy crop of pesky insects.

Nothing stopped the fox hunters, out tracing down hidden signals under the direction of veteran fox-hunter, Tom, N9CBA. Mark, W9UZ, contributed his Badminton Net, and the birds were flying! Lots of rag chewing and sampling the vast assortment of snacks and drinks took place in the shadow of Mt. Trashmore and along the shores of Silver Lake.

Picnic host John Faber assembled a great combination of dinner items from the kitchens of Portillo and the Colonel –both with their famous sides and main dishes. Not to be outdone for a culinary display was the dessert table –loaded down with pies, cakes, cookies and exotic sweets. No end of sweet tooth satisfiers were contributed!

Climaxing the afternoon was the selection of the door prizes. Number one out of the barrel and winner of a Gift Certificate from Peppercorn's Restaurant was Roberto, WA9E. Second Prizes were chosen by winners Tom Geletka, N9CBA (Handy Bucket); Mark Potter, W9UZ (Yard Lights); and Don Peterson, KB9UFS (Fog Lights).

Thanks to the host, John, and all those who added to the Picnic Fun!

WCRA MEMBERS – SILENT KEYS

Jim Ryder

Jim Ryder, former Glendale Heights resident with the call KA9CHQ, died on July 31st, and will be remembered for his service in keeping the Club's rolling stock in good shape, as well as repairing the Club's generator. Besides his ham interests, he was also a classic car collector with a restored '51 Mercury.

A member of the Land of Lincoln Theater Organ Society, Jim was living in Lake Summerset at the time of his death. His memorial services were held in the Indian Grove Country Church in Rock City, Il., with burial at the Durand, Il., cemetery. (Information provided by Roberto, WA9E, former neighbor of Jim)

Bill Morrison

Bill Morrison, Sr., W9GMO, Berkeley resident and WW II Army veteran, died on July 24th, and will be remembered for his enthusiastic work for the American Legion, and his elaborate multi-stick mobile antenna setup. He was generous in his mentoring of new hams, and sharing stories about his various electronic career adventures, including his time at Hallicrafters. In keeping with his devotion to his country, Bill was buried at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Wilmington. (Information provided by Bill Hollister, K9WH)

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER



Carl
Jack
Tom

N9GZR
KA9HEL
N9CBA

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.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 2nd: 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.
- 10th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145..31. Kate Saccany, KC9IQF will be discussing the ham radio logistics and challenges surrounding the Chicago Marathon.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for October.
- 23rd 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 Sept 10th, 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