



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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AN UPDATE FROM JOE, N9WRO, ON THE CSU TOWER

It took 15 hours, numerous trips to Lowes, several on the fly redesigns and a couple of strained wrists (it is amazing the backlash you get with a 5" hole saw using heavy duty 1/2" drill, finally had to switch to the huge Milwaukee right angle drill to get the the torque advantage to control it) but the tower is final at least installed in the CSU. You have no idea idea how difficult it is to install the tower plumb when no surface is flat and no 2 surface's are perpendicular. The tower is not locked down as I still need to shim the base that was so kindly provided (it is also not exactly square). The trailer was leveled at the location of the tower and is plumb relative to that position. Learned a few things about the trailer. I thought we had a full interior plywood ceiling, we do not. There are alternating ~ 6 " strips of plywood attached to the ribbing on 12" centers and insulation and the roof is 5/16 plywood not 3/4 as I had thought. One upside of this is I was able to hide the the air line and some DC wiring in the ceiling from the passenger side where the tower is and the driver side where the DC power is and the compressor will go.

Going to take a hot shower now and relax, I am totally wiped out.

73,
Joe/N9WRO

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

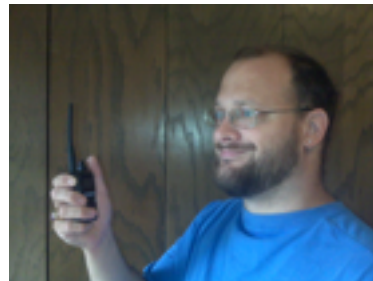
HAMLETTER

Editor	Don, N9NYX
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Features	Jim, W9DHX

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From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

October has come and gone. I cannot believe that it is already November.

This article is filed with apologies to all of you, especially Don N9NYX for a very late submission. Technology has not been my friend, but that has been rectified.

Joe N9WRO has been hard at work on the CSU, and the mast is nearly installed. The hole is drilled and it is in place. The last remaining steps are planned and then be prepared for an unveiling!

The Chicago Marathon went rather well and we thank all of our members that made our aid station successful. The largest problem was programming the message sign and communicating that far. Lessons were learned, and improvements will be made.

Ruth KA9RZG is hard at work on the holiday party, and I suspect that further details will be announced at the meeting.

Finally, I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting where we will see the culmination of a year's worth the planning for our annual club auction. We will also see the presentation of this year's Drake Memorial Scholarship with the passing of the plaque to the next winner.

73 de Steve, N9OA
Da Prez

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 SUPPORTS THE CHICAGO MARATHON BY OPERATING AID STATION 16 AMATEUR RADIO STATION

On the morning of 10/10/10 the City of Chicago hosted its 32nd Marathon. Ham Radio operators provided communications assistance for the medical teams located at 20 Aid Stations throughout the 26.2 mile race course. Set up began shortly after 4 AM and the race itself kicked off just before 7:30 with the Wheel Chair racers. The City was planning on about 45,000 racers. Each Aid Station had doctors, nurses, and associated medical staff. The Ham Operators were responsible for passing message traffic to the over all command center in Grant Park, calling for ambulance support when a doctor felt it was necessary, and placing logistic requests for each station. Each of the 20 Aid Stations had an amateur radio staff of from three to eight or more operators from Radio Clubs throughout the Chicago area and as far away as Peoria. Located here are pictures of the Aid Station Team 16.



Participating from WCRA were: John, WT9Y, John, N9MWF, Ken, N9HQ, Steve, N9OA, Kevin, AB9RN, Jack, KA9HEL, and Don, N9NYX as Ham Photographer based at Aid Station 10.



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



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Agenda for September 10, 2010

First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL

CALL TO ORDER

Call Presiding Officer 7:30 pm

Members in attendance: N9OA, WT9Y, N9HQ, KA)DSF, KA9HEL, KA9KDC, KC9IJO, W9DHX, KA9RVS, AJ9M,

KB9FYL, N9WBW, N9NYX, N9NA, WA9E, N9HDW, W9NJM, AB9RN

Guest: N9HQ

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS

Introductions Entire Assembly All present introduces
 Opening Remarks Any Board Member Ken N9HQ, Treasurer, mentioned that extra FD hats are available
 Announcement of program John, WT9Y Chicago Marathon challenges

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer N9WBW / W9DHX. Passed as printed

OFFICER REPORTS

President Steve, N9OA Peoria superfest tickets available
 Vice President John, WT9Y Next month's program is show and tell
 Secretary Kevin, AB9RN No report
 Treasurer Ken, N9HQ Gave report
 • Bank Account balances
 Property Custodian Bruce, KA0DSF No report

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Service Steve, N9OA See Steve to volunteer to assist with the Chicago Marathon

BREAK TO PROGRAM AND REFRESHMENTS

CSU John, N9MWF N9WRO will complete some additional modifications
 Hamfest John, WT9Y Meeting scheduled for 9/19 at John WT9Y's house. Fest is January 23rd 2011. Ideas for forums are requested now so we can begin to coordinate.
 Club Awards John, N9MWF
 Field Day Dale, NJ9E No report
 Christmas Party Dale, NJ9E No report
 Hamletter Don, N9NYX The club web site has a link to an updated version of the hamletter with an additional article that was inadvertently left out of the last issue... check it out!
 RAB Don, N9NYX Still searching for a low rent tower space option.

Website Tom, N9WBW Web site up and going.
Training Charlie, WB9SGD No report
Program John, WT9Y Next month's program will highlight remote ham operation and various data modes available for ham use.
Public Relations Mark, W9UZ Bob KG9U, Mike N9KYG, Dave W6DDJ, Paul KADZHB.
N9WBW Motioned seconded by KC9GO
Membership Paul, KA9RVS
Tom, N9WBW Fall campaign will start for membership renewals to get a head start for next year.
VE Program 4th Thursday of every month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None
,

NEW BUSINESS

Scholarship Committee W9DHX Jim W9DHX is seeking nominations for the Don Drake scholarship. Criteria is good participation in public service.

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS

W9CXC is at the Elk Grove Holiday Inn on 9/11

ADJOURNMENT

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer N9WBW Motioned to adjourn, Seconded N9NYX at 9:10pm

ANCHOR ANCHOR ANCHOR

I'm selling everything related to the tower (Mosely yagi, rotator, wire, mast, etc.) and I have no price at the moment, but I'm quite willing to consider all offers. I'll be leaving Wheaton.
Regards,
John, N9NA

MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE 2010 YEAR

Nov - 11/5 (Auction)
Dec - No meeting. Holiday Party TBA

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 Memberships Available

Family:
Full member call sign:
Name on Badge.....

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: _____

QST Nov.2010—Get the News about WSPR

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

COVER STORY EXPLAINS SOME NEW IONOSPHERE AND PROPOGATION TRICKS

Two physics professors, who are low power enthusiasts, devote three pages (30-32) to the “Weak Signal Propagation Reporter”(WSPR) system. It has its own website –WSPRnet.org – so that you can get tuned in to its use. The acronym is pronounced “whisper”, and a “must” for low power hams who want to achieve maximum results. A world map, examples of web pages, and charts will help you understand this “new frontier” of amateur radio.

THE STEEL TAPE MEASURE VERTICAL ANTENNA—GREAT FOR FIELD DAY

David Poole, AD9DP, formerly of Palatine, has come up with a great antenna project. He needed a 20 meter antenna for Field Day, and didn’t have the space or trees for a long wire. So he created an economical vertical, using an extended metal strip for the vertical radiator, and four tape measures for the ground radials. By mounting it on an aluminum stepladder, he turned out a plan not only for his 20 meter field day need, but one that could also work on 10 through 40 meters. Good photos show how it was done on pages 33 through 35.

ANOTHER ANTENNA IDEA—PUT IT IN A SUITCASE FOR EASY CARRYING

The “Up Front in QST” column on page 20 highlights a great idea for a portable mast in a suitcase—and the case becomes a stand for the antenna! Dean Wathen, KF9OL, poses for a photo with the Cushcraft Ringo AR2, and there’s also a close-up photo of the case and contents.

DX FRIENDSHIPS CROSS CONTINENTS—HAM RADIO IS A “PEOPLE” HOBBY

Look on page 67 for the story of how a chance DX contact evolved into a lifetime friendship. It all began with a 15 meter contact between Eastern USA and Klerksdorp, South Africa. You’ll be fascinated as to how this led to family connections and multiple visits to many corners of the globe. It is told by Peter Brandenburg, K2MMT, who has been hamming for 56 years!

REACHING OUT FOR AN ELUSIVE LINE –TRY THE MOUSETRAP GIMMICK

Do you get exasperated when there is something “just out of reach” and you don’t want to set up a ladder? Bill Kirk, NJ1X, submitted a “Hints and Kinks” idea that you might like to try. He put a “Victor” spring mouse trap on the end of an aluminum pole and rigged it with a string release. Details and a photo are on page 66. You pull the string and “trap” the elusive line or item.

CELEBRITY HAM—ALVINO REY(W6UK) –INSPIRED MODERN DAY BAND

Page 67 begins an article about the “father of the pedal steel guitar”, and his grandsons who picked up the ARRL insignia for the logo used by their Alternative Rock Band, Arcade Fire.

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER



MARK	W9UZ
ROBERTO	WA9E
LARRY	KA9KDC
JOE	N9WRO
ROBERT	N9IRY

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.

NOVEMBER 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. This month's program will be the annual club auction.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for December.
- 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 December.

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 Nov 5th, 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