



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 567

Founded 1948

Dec 2010



*MERRY*

*CHRISTMAS*

*AND A*

*HAPPY*

*NEW YEAR*

*FROM WCCU*

**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

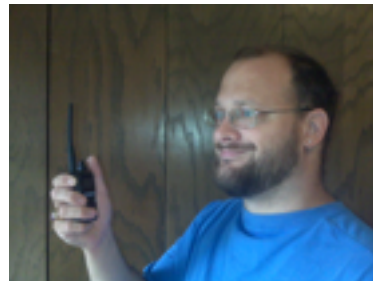
**HAMLETTER**

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Photos	Larry, KA9KDC
Features	Jim, W9DHX

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# From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

Merry Christmas!  
 Happy Hannakah!  
 Happy Kwanza!  
 Happy Diwali!  
 Happy Ramadan!  
 Happy Winter Solstice!  
 And a joyous New Year!!

At the November meeting you were presented with a second opportunity to vote on the September minutes (oops). I sent in the wrong copy (dooh!). This month you will notice October and November minutes for your review.

In addition to all of your other holiday plans, I hope to see you all our annual Christmas party. If you haven't already signed up, contact Ruth (KA9RZG) for details.

At the November meeting, we solidified the committee to work on a mission statement for the club. After completion of their meetings, their result will be presented to the membership for possible revision and ultimately for approval. Thank you in advance to the committee: Kevin AB9RN, Bob W9BK, and Tom N9WBW.

Hamfest is coming! Hamfest is coming! John WT9Y and his committee are hard at work putting the finishing touches on this very important event. Contact Rich N9DKO for information on tickets and Mary KC9IJO to volunteer to help.

Until next month...

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 October 1, 2010  
First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Call Presiding Officer In Attendance:  
N9OA, WT9Y, KA0DSF, KA9HEL, W9DHF, KA9RVS, W9UZ,  
KC9IJO, W9BK, N9NA, KA9KDC, KB9FYL., N9CBA,  
N9NYX, W3MDM, NJ9E, WA9E

Guest: Sal (KA9INV)

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

Introductions Entire Assembly  
Opening Remarks Any Board Member Ken N9HQ and Kevin AB9RN are both absent due to birthdays. Ken's own and Kevin's son.  
Tonight's program John, WT9Y Eclectic mix of program: Show and tell and other material to share on various topics including batteries and DC safety.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Changes/Deletions Presiding Officer  
Approval Presiding Officer Approved by acclamation

**BREAK TO PROGRAM AND REFRESHMENTS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING**

Corrections Secretary  
Approval Presiding Officer Approval. KA9HEL, N9NYX

**OFFICER REPORTS**

President Steve, N9OA  
Vice President John, WT9Y  
Secretary Kevin, AB9RN  
Treasurer Ken, N9HQ  
Bank Account balances  
Property Custodian Bruce, KA0DSF Bruce is on the hunt for anyone who has club assets.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Public Service Steve, N9OA Chicago Marathon 10/10/10  
CSU John, N9MWF Moved to N9WRO QTH for final repairs. The tower may be moved to the other side. 1" cable conduits will be on the tower. Four coaxes will be run to the tower along with a 6 conductor rotator cable. The DC power system is progressing as well. The CSU will then be returned to its new home.  
Hamfest John, WT9Y John passed out flyers. Joel Hallas (QST – The doctor is in) will be a forum speaker. Jim Allsopp may also be a speaker. The west wing will be available. Mary (KC9IJO) passed out a list for people to sign up. People at the hamfest will be able to join the club for half price.  
Club Awards John, N9MWF No report

Field Day Dale, NJ9E It will be in June  
 Christmas Party Dale, NJ9E There will be a family style meal at Berone's in Glen Ellyn With a guarantee of 30 we can have the restaurant to ourselves. The meal will be family style. The cost is \$20 per person with alcohol additional. The cost will go up \$5 on November 16. Bring a white elephant.  
 Hamletter Don, N9NYX If you aren't receiving it, let Don know. He can also use articles.  
 Wink, hint, nod.  
 RAB Don, N9NYX Everything seems to be working. No alternate site for the Schroeders. Exploring it.  
 Website Tom, N9WBW No Report  
 Training Charlie, WB9SGD No Report  
 Program John, WT9Y Next month will be the auction.  
 Public Relations Mark, W9UZ No report.  
 Membership Paul, KA9RVS The first 2011 renewal was received.  
 VE Program No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Don Drake Scholarship James, W9DHX Several nominations have been received. Announcement will be named at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mission Statement

**ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS**  
 brought flyers for the taking

Roberto

**ADJOURNMENT**

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer N9CBSA, KB9FYL

MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER:

**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
 Agenda for November 5, 2010  
 First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL**

CALL TO ORDER

**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

Call Presiding Officer N9OA, WT9Y, AB9RN, N9HQ, KA0DSF, KA9RVS, N9WBW, KA9HEL, W9DHX, KA9KDC, KA9RZG, W3MDM, AJ9M, NJ9E, NV9R, N9DKO, N9CBA, N9NYX, WA9VAA, W9NJM, K9JAU, KC9IJO, KB9RTO  
Call to order 7:32 pm by N9OA  
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.  
Tonight's program John, WT9Y Auction

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Changes/Deletions Presiding Officer None  
Approval Presiding Officer Approved by acclimation.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Corrections Secretary None.  
Approval Presiding Officer Not approved as wrong minutes submitted for newsletter. Correct minutes will appear in next month's newsletter.

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

President Steve, N9OA No report.  
Vice President John, WT9Y No report.  
Secretary Kevin, AB9RN No report.  
Treasurer Ken, N9HQ Report given  
Bank Account balances  
Property Custodian Bruce, KA0DSF Roberto and Bruce are planning to visit the shed to review club property. A list of inventory will be checked.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Public Service Steve, N9OA Club members were acknowledged for their participation and support of the Chicago marathon.  
CSU John, N9MWF The tower has been installed into the csu and remaining items like the compressor and wiring remain to be completed. Two portable lighting units and two radios from the local government officials have been allocated to the CSU for our use. The CSU remains at Joe's house where work on it it continues. The club is considering longer term storage at his location.  
Hamfest John, WT9Y Flyers are available, get them from John if you would like one.  
Club Awards John, N9MWF No report.  
Field Day Dale, NJ9E No report.  
Christmas Party Dale, NJ9E Party will be at 3pm on 12/5 at Barrones in Glenn Ellyn. Cost is \$20 per person before 11/15 or \$25 after. Food will be Italian (pizza, salad, pasta, dessert). Bring a "white elephant" gift to exchange.  
Hamletter Don, N9NYX Let Don know if you're not on the email distro list. Send articles to Don if you have anything to share.  
RAB Don, N9NYX The police department has invited us to use their short tower at 30 feet. Don proposed the idea of putting the 220 machine there.

Website	Tom, N9WBW	No report.
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	No report.
Program	John, WT9Y	Live auction tonight!
Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	No report.
Membership	Paul, KA9RVS	
	Tom, N9WBW	Tom is preparing renewal reminders for club members.

VE Program No attendance in September. 3 attempted in October, 2 passed. Next session is 11/18.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Don Drake Scholarship Presentation Jim, W9DHX Jim expressed joy that we had a unanimous decision to select John Faber WT9Y as this year's winner of the scholarship. John was presented the award and acknowledged by the club.

### NEW BUSINESS

Mission Statement Steve seeking a non-board members to participate on the exec board meeting. Tom N9WBW volunteer. Others are welcome to offer their name. One person will be selected.

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

Health and Welfare Peter's cat died as a result of a fire in his house. He is doing fine.

### ADJOURNMENT

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer Motion to adjourn at 8:01pm

The refreshments and program will follow the business meeting.

## John Faber, WT9Y Awarded 2010 Scholarship

Shown in the photo (right) is John Faber, WT9Y, winner of the Don Drake Memorial Scholarship for Public Service during the past year. Presenting the Award Certificate is Jim Ward, W9DHX, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee that annually recognizes the achievement of one of the Club members.

John's name will also appear on the plaque which is mounted on the wall of the Communication Support Unit and with the name of last year's winner, John Cheney, N9MWF.

A duplicate plaque remains in the possession of the current winner for the year of his nomination. Don Drake's family was the donor of the Scholarship Fund and the two plaques. They designated the funds, as well as the contents of Don's shack, to call attention to the important "Public Service" work in which Don was a great participant.

In presenting the award, Jim Ward commented on the high level of participation John has exhibited during the year, with attendance at major Public Service Events, Field Day, and our new activity in connection with the Chicago Marathon.

John has been a member of the Club since 2000 and currently serves as Vice-President and Chairman of the Hamfest. In accepting the award, he commented that he enjoyed the time spent on public service activities and was honored to receive the award.

In his "day job", John is a Senior Project Manager at Sargent & Lundy LLC, an architect/engineering firm located in downtown Chicago. He lives in Wheaton with his wife Carol and two youngest children Jeff and Christy.



John enjoys all facets of amateur radio including kit building, boat anchor restoration and HF contesting....as time permits.

Jim Ward



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# CHRISTMAS PARTY PICTURES

Submitted by Bob, NV9R's wife Anni











# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# QST-DEC.2010 - Field Day Reports Are Here!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **3454 POINTS IN THE TOP HALF OF THE PACK IN CLASS 5-A**

That's where "W9CCU Calling Field Day" ended up in this year's action. There were 1,329,610 contacts made by 2,649 entries. A total of 37,765 hams participated. You'll find a story about the various clubs beginning on page 67, and the 5-A scores are on page 75.

## **ADVICE ON HOW TO SELECT YOUR FIRST HANDHELD TRANSCEIVER**

Joel Hallas, W1ZR, tosses out some good advice on an important purchase a handheld. His good ideas – check out your considered models in the QST ProductReview ([www.arrl.org/product-review](http://www.arrl.org/product-review)). He also recommends the new ham purchase a copy of The ARRL Repeater Directory. The article is on pages 40 and 41.

## **A FLAGPOLE ANTENNA FOR THE FRONT YARD**

Out of tragedy, comes a patriotic inspiration. Geoff Haines, N1GY, lost his home due to a fire in 2008. He decided to move and picked out a house which had utility poles taking up the back yard, but with a spacious front yard. Why not a vertical in front? Geoff's wife vetoed his old and ugly vertical, so why not a gracious flagpole with flowers at the base? No reason not to, so now he has a deluxe arrangement, including red, white and blue petunias. At the top, a toilet tank float with a coat of gold paint. Pages 30-32 give you a narrative with step by step guide.

## **GIFT IDEAS FOR SANTA**

The December Issue is always chock full of good gift ideas. In addition to the regular ads, QST has a special "Holiday Merchant Guide" with seven pages of accessories that might add excitement to your Christmas stocking. Leave the magazine open to page 127.

## **TWO WORLD WAR II SHIPS COMMEMORATE CONFLICT'S END**

The USS Missouri in Pearl Harbor and the USS North Carolina in Wilmington, NC, used original ships' gear to make a ship-to-ship contact in honor of the end of WW II. It was 65 years ago. Of course the contact was made by CW. The story is on page 100.

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# HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO WORK THE HAMFEST?



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



BOB	W3MDM
DOUG	W9NJM
GEORGE	KA3HSW

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.

## DECEMBER 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.

5th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145..31. No meeting this month because of Club Christmas Party

20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for January.

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 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 Jan 7th, 2011, 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**