



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 568

Founded 1948

Jan 2011



MID-WINTER HAMFEST

Ham Radio, Computers and Electronics Flea Market

Plenty of FREE Parking ● Reserved Flea Market Tables ● Hourly Prizes
VE Testing for all License Classes ● Forums

Sunday, January 23, 2011

Doors open at 8AM (Closes at 1PM)

Kane County Fairgrounds

525 S. Randall Rd., St Charles, IL

(Coordinates: N 41.9056, W 88.34232)



Talk-In on WCRA's 2M Repeater 145.31/- (107.2 Hz)
or National Simplex Frequency 146.52 Mhz

Tickets:

Advance, 4 stubs \$7

At the door, 1 stub \$9

Flea Market:

\$25/table (\$30 day, if avail.)

Electricity available for \$10



(630) 604-0157 info@w9ccu.org www.w9ccu.org

Advance Ticket and Flea Market Table Order Form

Name _____ Call _____ Tickets @\$7.00 - \$ _____

Address _____ Tables @\$25.00 - \$ _____

Electricity (\$10.00) \$ _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please include an e-mail address so that we can confirm your order along with an SASE for delivery of tickets..

Mail to: WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60187-1055

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

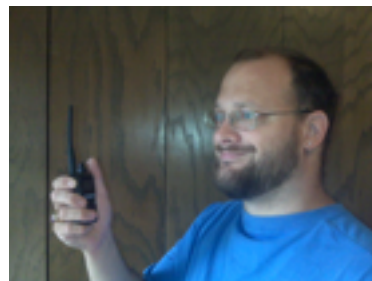
HAMLETTER

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From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

Hello friends:

I hope you had a great holiday season. Happy new year to you!

As of this writing, Mary, KC9IJO is about 1/3 of the way through the manpower assignments for hamfest. Please call Mary at (630) 222-9732 to help out. Speaking of Hamfest, John is hard at work with his committee and I want to recognize their efforts.

We will be discussing the 'fest in more detail at the meeting tomorrow. I hope to see you there.

73,
Steve

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 October and November were published in the December issue of the HamLetter.

QST-Jan.2011 Reviewed—D.I.Y. Issue is Here!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

For many of us, Ham Radio started with Do It Yourself tinkering; page 13 of this issue, Hal Kramer, WJ1B, the Big Cheese of the ARRL, tells of his experience in rewiring a WW II BC455 as a teenager. His report on this issue tells of the broad scope of the DIY projects described.

“THE DOCTOR IS IN” COLUMNIST NEEDS READING—SEE PAGES 56-57

Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR, who conducts the column each month by answering questions about Ham Radio, will run two forums at our January Hamfest. In order to be a good listener, and get ready for a question of our own for the “Doctor”, read his current column; he has some interesting answers—I liked the one about how to attach an antenna to a sailboat!

WHAT CAUSED THE RUSH OF DXPEDITIONS? FOUR NEW DXCC ENTITIES DID IT

October 10, 2010 at 0400Z was the start time for the four new countries, so QST has more reports than they can handle. This issue covers newly independent Sint Maarten with a call of PJ7E. You can see the matched T-shirt team on page 88 of this issue as well as the new country’s flag. In a separate story on pages 66 through 68 you can read about a complex expedition with hams from six nations participating. The group chose a remote island military outpost controlled by the government of Vietnam – Con Co Island. The team, headed by a Swiss DX enthusiast, found leftovers from the late war as they moved around the island by horse cart. In spite of the lack of modern transport, the team made 18,000 contacts. Their story is an interesting one.

THE NATIONAL “HRO” RECEIVER—A 1935 BEAUTY AHEAD OF ITS TIME

Brian Page, N4TRB, tells his restoration adventure when he acquires a 1942 model of this classic. There are photographs of Brian’s restored production model, and the designer’s pre-production prototype that is a part of the ARRL’s Headquarters Museum collection!

“THE LAST CQ—A SURVIVOR’S GUIDE” –AN ARTICLE TO PASS ON

How many of us have been asked by a widow of a Ham friend: “What am I going to do with all that radio stuff?” Don Drake had the right idea; he gave all his Ham gear to the WCRA to establish a Scholarship. Bill Conklin, AF6OH, gives you two pages of suggestions covering the legal and emotional side of an issue no one likes to talk about.



Progress Report on the CSU Trailer Upgrade

By Joe LeFebvre, N9WRO

Even though the CSU worked hard and well in our 2010 Field Day outing, we all know that the enhancements planned have not been moving fast enough to please those who want to see a first class Emergency Unit. So it was moved to my address in St. Charles so I wouldn't have to run back and forth when I had time to work on it.

You'll be glad to know that progress has been made. Although there are still a lot of partially completed projects, but with three weeks to go, I think we will have a "show stopper" on exhibit at the Hamfest.

For example, the power-raised tower is in place with everything bolted in place and the lines hidden in the ceiling today. The AC Monitoring panel is complete but not installed, and the DC control panel is about 80% complete. I still have outstanding orders to several vendors for components, so I can complete the DC system. The current project is a mounting bracket for the 12 volt DC compressor that drives the tower.

The recent cold weather made the temperatures unbearable in the trailer (only a small space heater was available). I recently put in an 85,000 BTU propane torpedo heater that can get my garage toasty in five minutes. I am also installing a standard 50 Amp power connector in the garage so I can plug in the CSU directly.

Another addition to the CSU is the duplicate Don Drake Memorial Plaque, shown in the photo right next to the swing out Mini Rack. In position are 2-meter, 440, and 220 mobile transceivers, and a HD 12 volt power supply. We'll be sending a copy of the photo to Don's family.

HAMFEST NEEDS YOU!!!

The time has come for the club's annual Mid-Winter Ham Fest. The event will be held the weekend of January 22nd & 23rd 2011 and once again it will be at the Kane County Fair Grounds in St. Charles, IL. I want to thank the number of people whom have already agreed to volunteer but we still need MORE! This is our club's only fundraiser and it won't be a success without a lot of help. The funds we raise from the annual Mid-Winter Ham Fest go on to support our club and all of the activities we do throughout the year and we cannot pull off this great Mid-Winter Ham Fest without your support. So please sign up with me at m2e1990@gmail.com or call me at (630)222-9732 to sign up for a shift. We need people to work the following areas-

Saturday Jan 22nd, 2011-

Set up Tables & Chairs- 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (as many volunteers as possible)

Move Vendors In 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. (as many volunteers as possible)

Sunday Jan 23rd, 2011-

Move Vendors in 5 a.m.- 8 a.m.

Ticket Sellers 7:45 a.m. – 9 a.m., 8:45 a.m. -10:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m. -12 p.m. We need at least 6 more volunteers to sell tickets

Ticket Checkers 7:45 a.m. – 9 a.m., 8:45 a.m. -10:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m. -12 p.m. We need at least 8 more volunteers to check tickets

Parking Lot Attendants -7:15 a.m. – 9 a.m. – Need at least two people willing to stand out in the cold.

Club Table 8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. – 12 p.m. Need at least two or three volunteers to help Hams join our club or to fundraise for the Don Drake Scholarship fund.

Ham Fest Stage 8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Someone has to tell hams where to drop their raffle tickets off, make announcements on who has won what, etc.

Rovers- 8 a.m. -10:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. -1 p.m. We need 4 people willing to wander around Ham-Fest and make sure customers aren't trying to sneak in (or vendors trying to sneak out).

Club Talk in-10:30 a.m. – 1p.m. Help lost Hams and volunteers find where they need to go.

Tear Down Crew-1 p.m. until???????? (FREE PIZZA)

The more help we have, the quicker we can get out of there.

Thank you in advance for your help and hard work
Mary Tuohy-KC9IJO

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: _____

It is that time of year again to think about sending in a check to renew your WCRA Club Dues. Or you can hand deliver your check to Ken at this Friday's General Membership meeting.

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

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO WORK THE HAMFEST?

MEETING DATES FOR 2011

1/7	6/3
2/4	7/8
3/4	9/9
4/1	10/7
5/6	11/4

There will be a Club Pinnic in August and a Christmas Party in December in lieu of a regular membership meeting.

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY



CAROL

KB9FYL

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.

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 6th: 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.
- 7th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145..31. Program this month is the Hamfest.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for February.
- 27th. 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 Jan 8th, 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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eMail: donlin67@gmail.com

First Class Mail