



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly  
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
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## WCRA PRODUCES ANOTHER “WOULDN’T MISS IT” HAMFEST 2011

John Faber, his committee, and many volunteer workers, turned out a great performance at the Kane County Prairie Events Center on January 23. The months of preparation by all concerned, paid off big in attendance and enthusiasm. Vendors and visitors alike were pleased with the cleaned parking lots and cleanliness of the facility that made for convenience and safety.

One of the stars of the show was the “CSU—Communication Support Unit”. The gleaming trailer, freshly loaded with the latest in radio equipment, was parked inside and caught the attention of newcomers and veterans alike.

Among the first visitors was Joe Pritchard, RACES official, who also made a presentation at the first Seminar of the day at 8:30. (See separate story about RACES elsewhere in the issue).

Technical Editor of QST, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, ran the second Seminar on Antennas, and followed with Seminar No.3, using the “Questions and Answers” technique from his “THE DOCTOR IS IN” featured column in the national magazine.

A variety of merchandise and services were available at the 150 plus tables carefully lined up on the main floor. From the vintage “swap meet” style items to the latest sophisticated electronic items, there was something for everyone—including a computer driven embroidery sewing machine for personalized caps and shirts.. Vendors were quick to offer advice on selective problems and hard to find items. Sales were reported up from previous years, and they were ready to be back in 2012.

The Grand Prize of \$200 was won by Phil VanHeurek, W9XAN, of Elgin, Illinois. He was a Bears fan and was not present to collect his cash, which he received by mail. However, a high percentage of the “Hourly Drawing Prizes” were collected on the spot. Over 50 winning numbers were drawn from the golden barrel. Prizes were donated by Vendors and other Ham Clubs.

“Thanks to all the Volunteers who helped put this together, and particularly to Mary Tuohy, KC9IJO, who recruited all the shift workers,” commented Chairman Faber. “It takes a lot of people to make it work. This year’s HamFest won’t bring any big addition to our treasury, but we came out winners with clean parking lots and no accidents due to slipping on ice. Too bad the Bears didn’t have as good luck as we did.”

**Join us for the 20th annual Advanced Severe Weather Seminar.**  
Sponsored by the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, (See page 5)

**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

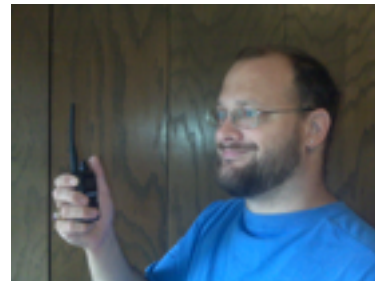
**HAMLETTER**

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# From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

It is official. Another Hamfest has come and gone. From early reports, things seemed to go well. I would like to express my gratitude to John, WT9Y for a job well done. I would also like to acknowledge the multitude of former members and non-member supporters who assisted Mary, KC9IJO with her duties as man-power coordinator by volunteering to work at the 'fest. I invite each of you that assisted with the event to stop and pat yourself on your back for the efforts.

Speaking of John, WT9Y (with his VP hat on this time), Thanks to John's efforts, we will have a guest speaker at the February meeting. Kermit Carlson, W9XA will visit and give us a virtual tour of ARRL HQ.

How many of you saw the CSU out at the Hamfest? It is all decked out with a 12v power system, power gates, a pneumatic mast, a new tool chest, shelving, radios, and to top it off ... It is spotlessly clean. Please give Joe, N9WRO a round of applause. Or better yet, call or e-mail him to share your thoughts.

There are many great things that our club does year round, and I appreciate all of those who make them possible. All of our club's committee chairpersons (all those funny people who make monthly reports) do a very thankless job for all of their hard work, and I am pausing here to say "Thank You" to those amateurs.

73,  
Steve, N9OA

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  
Minutes of the Meeting for January 7, 2011  
First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Call Presiding Officer N90A at 7:35 pm  
In attendance: N90A, WT9Y, AB9RN, N9HQ, KA0DSF, NJ9E, W9DHX, AJ9M, W9UZ, W3MDM, N9WBW, WA9VAA, KA9RVS, NE9ET, N9QGV, KA9KVC, KB9RTO, N9MWF, W9BK, K9WXV, KA9EPK, N9NYX

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	Happy new year!
Tonight's program	John, WT9Y	

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Changes/Deletions	Presiding Officer	None
Approval	Presiding Officer	N9WBW motioned, KB9RTO seconded

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Corrections	Secretary	None
Approval	Presiding Officer	Approved

**OFFICER REPORTS**

President	Steve, N90A	None
Vice President	John, WT9Y	W9XA Kermit Carlson will give a virtual tour of ARRL HQ
Secretary	Kevin, AB9RN	None
Treasurer	Ken, N9HQ	Report was given
•		Bank Account balances
Property Custodian	Bruce, KA0DSF	None

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Public Service	Steve, N90A	None
CSU	John, N9MWF	Pneumatic mast is installed and cable snake. Rotor is sticking and being repaired. Volt meter is installed to monitor shore voltage.
Hamfest	John, WT9Y	Deferred to the program later in the meeting
Club Awards	John, N9MWF	None
Field Day	Dale, NJ9E	None
Christmas Party	Dale, NJ9E	Party was a success!
Hamletter	Don, N9NYX	Looking for articles
RAB	Don, N9NYX	Reminder that the club has a second 2Meter repeater on 145.39 with 103.5 pl.
Website	Tom, N9WBW	Up and running
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	None
Program	John, WT9Y	Hamfest

(Continued on Page 8)

# QST-Feb.'11-It's All About Space –ARISSat-1

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **GET READY TO TALK TO OUTER SPACE THE EASY WAY**

If you've ever wanted to join the more technical gifted Hams in Space Communications, your opportunity is coming. This month a new **Box** will be launched from Kazakhstan, Russia, and according to a four page article (p.30-33) it will be on the air 15 minutes after its release. This means goodbye to the former SuitSat that was made from an out of date Russian Space Suit. David Johnson, AA4KN, is the author of the article.

## **QRP FANS! NEW TRANSCEIVER IS PRODUCT REVIEWED-TEN-TEC R-4020**

QST's Product Review Editor, Mark Wilson, K1RO, gives this domestically made QRP rig a thorough check out. It has a steel case, and generally gets good scores and carries a \$249 price tag. No speaker, so be sure to take your headphones along for your portable operations. Pages 54 and 55 carry the story.

## **A PORTABLE 2-METER YAGI THAT TRAVELS LIGHT**

Simple construction with the help of banana plugs (which are used to hold together easily available materials) make this efficient antenna perfect for hikers that like light weight equipment. Richard Gillette, W9PE, has done a great job and gives three pages of illustrated instructions and a simple parts list. The article starts on Page 34.

## **ANOTHER DIFFICULT DXPEDITION—HOW ABOUT KURDISTAN?**

Many of those rare adventures are to desolate islands—but this trip went to an equally difficult destination – IRAQ! Not quite a peaceful beach location, but rather the fourth largest city in the country-Erbil, with a population of 500,000. However, with careful planning and a 13 man multi-nation team , 50,000 contacts were worked in eight days. The story of their problems and solutions make interesting reading. Fund raising came from manufacturers, generous donors, and the Hams themselves. David Collingham, K3LP and Paul Ewing, N6PSE, write the story beginning on page 73.

## **SOLAR PANEL FOR THIS YEAR'S FIELD DAY? READ IT AND PLUG IN**

Want to be free of that generator power line? Read page 66 and you'll find out how to make it happen. Good advice given by Joel Hallas, W1ZR, the QST Technical Editor, who was the featured speaker at this year's HamFest. If you like checking into power options, this article is for you.

## **VE Testing Team Scores At 2011 HamFest**

Harry Kamer, K9HK, and other members of the VE Testing Team, were hard at work on Sunday, Jan 23rd, passing out tests and scoring them. As a result there are twelve amateur radio enthusiasts who have moved from "wannabees" to being ready for a new license or an upgraded status.

There were three Tech, five Generals, and four Extras examined and no failures!

A big vote of appreciation to Harry and the other four team members: George Greene, NE9ET; George Reichert, W9GWR; Janie Gallina, AE9JG; and Don Webster, K9MUF.

If you know someone who wants to get licensed, refer them to the four pages of information on the Club's website—there's testing every month of the year, as well as helpful hints on how to prepare for the test.

# WCRA Past President Named RACES Officer

Joe LeFebvre, N9WRO, has been appointed RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) Officer for DuPage County. The announcement was made by County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Norm Sturm on January 20th.

Joe is a Past President of WCRA, serving in that office from 2000 to 2001. Two years before, he had already taken on the role of Public Service and was directing the Emergency programs of the Club. Joe became a member of the County's Emergency organization in 1998 and was made a Lieutenant in 2002.

Further details of how the all-volunteer plan will work, as well as the recruitment program for members, will be forthcoming. Meanwhile, it is good news for WCRA members who want to render community service under the direction of one of our own members.

## **(Severe Weather Seminar continued from Page 1)**

the seminar will be held on Saturday March 12, 2011, from 8:00 AM until 3:30 PM. Amy Freeze, Chief Meteorologist at Fox News Chicago, is back by popular demand as the program emcee. The Advanced Weather Seminar is geared toward those individuals who will be on the front lines of the weather warning system, including spotters, amateur radio operators, emergency management personnel, police, fire, educators, public works and utility workers. This spotter seminar is designed to provide continuing education to trained spotters who wish to broaden their understanding of advanced weather phenomena.

Scheduled highlights include:

- Back to Basics – Not Basic Training: The spotter's role in the severe weather process & what you need to know
- QLCS (Squall Line) Spotting – Case Study of the June 18th Derecho
- Storm Damage Surveys
- Building Safety & Becoming Storm Ready
- Q&A Panel with the Experts
- And many others....

## **NEW LOCATION!**

The seminar will be held at Tellabs in Naperville:

One Tellabs Center

1415 West Diehl Road

Naperville, IL 60563

**THIS IS NOT A FUNCTION OF TELLABS.**

## **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Advanced Weather Spotter Seminar - \$35.00

Registration fee includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and a special give-a-way. All registrations with payment must be received no later than Friday February 25, 2011.



## PLEASE NOTE

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION, OR THE REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. NO WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS OR PAYMENTS AT THE DOOR WILL BE ACCEPTED.

## REGISTRATION OPTIONS

1. Online registration and payment is available at <http://dupagesevereweather.com>. Payment must be made at time of online registration.
2. Mail-in registration and payment by check payable to DuPage County OHSEM, 136 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187, will also be accepted. (Registrations without payment will not be accepted. A registration confirmation notice will be e-mailed to you upon receipt of registration. If no e-mail address is provided, a confirmation will not be sent.)

## REFUND POLICY

Registered individuals who find it necessary to cancel must contact the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at (630) 682-7925 as soon as possible. Cancellations received on or before the refund cut-off date of Friday February 25, 2011 by 12:00 noon, will receive a full refund. Refunds will not be possible for cancellations received after the refund cut-off date as materials and food will already have been ordered.



Some of our Club Members at the recent Hamfest. Top Left **Steve, N9OA** and **Doug, W9NJM**; Middle dropping off ticket stubs; Bottom left **Steve, W9SRB** catches up.

Pictures by Jim, W9DHX

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Hamfest main floor and main lobby with club tables. Middle picture finds **John, N9MWF, Joe, N9WRO, and Jim, N9LQF** discussing the Hamfest.

Pictures by Jim, W9DHX



Public Relations                   `Mark, W9UZ                   None  
 Membership                   Paul, KA9RVS  
                   Tom, N9WBW           1 new member W9DMW Donald Wondolkowski voted in. Welcome Don!  
 VE Program   November – 2 upgrades to general and 1 new tech

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mission Statement           AB9RN / W9BK / N9WBW   None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mission Statement   None

**ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS**           AE9G is retired. Robert N9XS says Hello!

**ADJOURNMENT**

Entertain Motion           Presiding Officer       7:50pm



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

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

## MEETING DATES FOR 2011

2/4

3/4

4/1

5/6

6/3

7/8

9/9

10/7

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 FEBRUARY



JOHN

K9FID

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.

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 3rd: 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.
- 4th: 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 March.
- 24th. 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 Feb 4th, 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:

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
P.O. Box QSL  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187  
eMail: donlin67@gmail.com

**First Class Mail**