



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly
 Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
 Issue 571 Founded 1948 Apr 2011

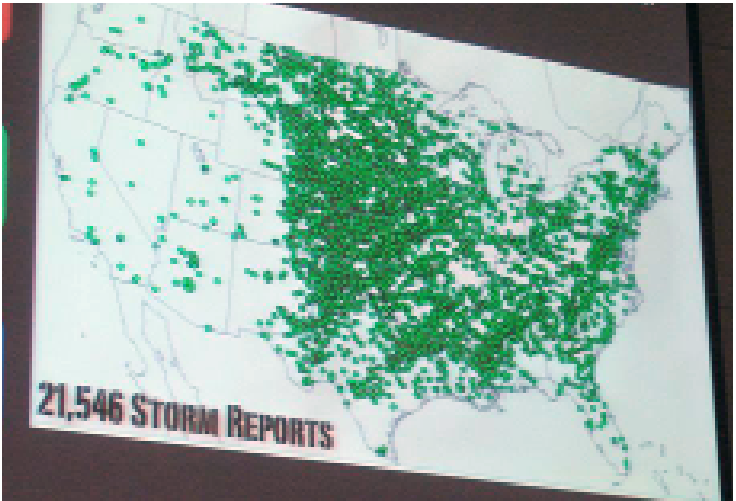


20TH ANNIVERSARY ADVANCED SEVERE WEATHER SEMINAR DRAWS BIG CROWD

The 2011 edition of the popular Weather Seminar played to a near capacity audience of weather spotting enthusiasts at a new location with a mixture of new and repeat speakers. The Tellabs Auditorium and Cafeteria provided the venue for excellent presentations and tasty Continental Breakfast and Buffet Luncheon on Saturday, March 12t



Norman A. Sturm, Jr Director, OHSOEM, welcomes attendees



Giant Visuals were projected overhead, as this Chart of 21,546 Storm Reports in the U.S.

After the opening ceremonies, Guest MC Weather Lady, Amy Freeze, introduced the line up of Speakers. College of DuPage Professor Paul Sirvatka opened with “Spotting Basics”, illustrating severe weather incidents with classic stills and videos, as well as personal demonstrations and a question and answer session. A mid morning break permitted photos with the Guest MC.



Prof. Paul Sirvatka

Amy Freeze and Fred Porzelt, KB9MV U



Continued on page 4

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
145.390/144.790	103.5(1A) PL Encode/Decode

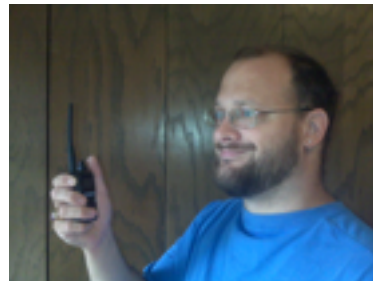
HAMLETTER

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This publication uses QuarkXPress 8.12 and Photoshop CS3



From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

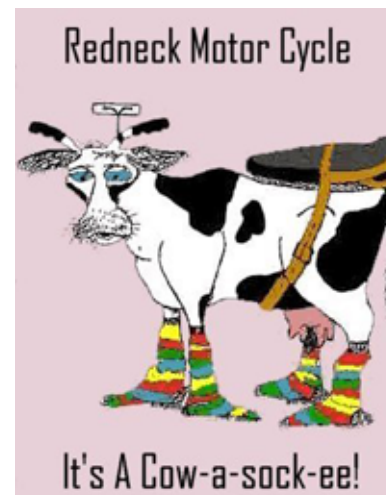
Friends:

Our meeting on Friday will have an excellent double pronged program. John has information on these later in this issue. Our club fiscal year starts soon with a new year of program. Three of us board members will be continuing on for at least another year. As for our Treasurer and Vice President their terms have ended. They may continue if elected. Dale NJ9E has been hard at work bringing us a slate of officers.

Friday is also the annual meeting of our corporation. We will have election of officers featuring election of Vice President and Treasurer.

The beginning of a new year also opens opportunities for serving on or chairing club committees. See me if you are interested.

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



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs Agenda for March 4, 2011

First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL

CALL TO ORDER

Call Presiding Officer 7:30

Approval of Agenda Presiding Officer Approved by
acclimation

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS

N9OA, WT9Y, KA0OSF, N9HQ, KA9UJI, K9WXU, KA9RVS, W9DHX, KA3HSW, KO7MBX, W9BK, KB9RTO, KA9RVS, N9CBA, KB9RCO, W3MDM, AE9JG, W9ACO, K9ILF, AB9RN

Tonight's program John, WT9Y Kevin AB9RN will present a topic of Amateur Satellite and a piece of software he wrote to make QSO logging easier. The video presentation can be watched on Youtube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSli7DXgvqE>

BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS

MEETING PROGRAM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Approval Presiding Officer Approved. KB9RTO/K9WXU

OFFICER REPORTS

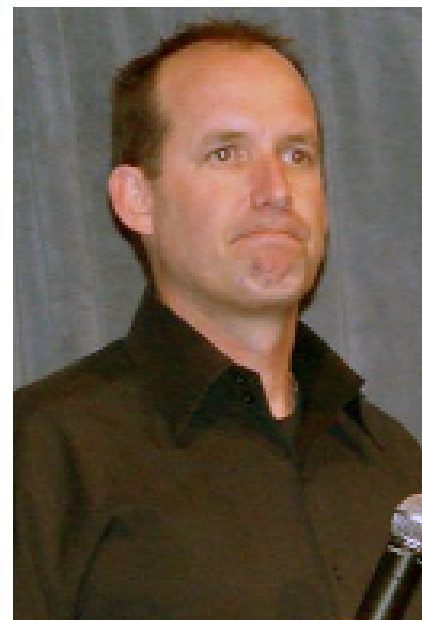
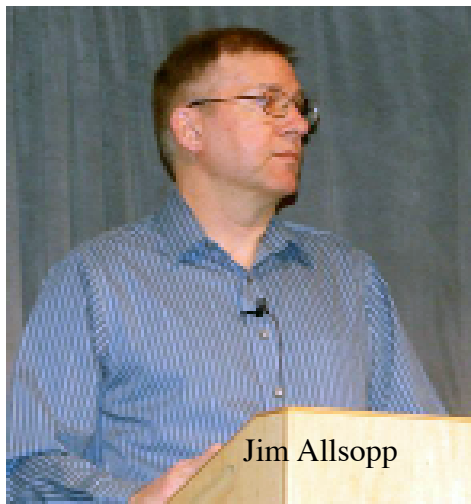
President	Steve, N9OA	None
Vice President	John, WT9Y	None
Secretary	Kevin, AB9RN	None
Treasurer	Ken, N9HQ	An update was provided for the checking account. The VE team donated \$130 from the hamfest
Bank Account balances		
Property Custodian	Bruce, KA0DSF	None

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

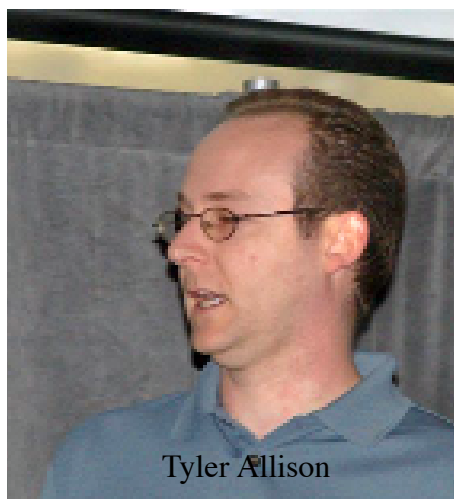
Public Service	Steve, N9OA	Next event is the Special Olympics. Steve is seeking volunteers. The date is 5/1
CSU	John, N9MWF	No update
Hamfest	John, WT9Y	A follow-up meeting will be scheduled in the near future.
Club Awards	John, N9MWF	None
Field Day	Dale, NJ9E	Will be in June and are starting to make preparations.
Christmas Party	Dale, NJ9E	None
Hamletter	Don, N9NYX	None
RAB	Don, N9NYX	
Website	Tom, N9WBW	Everything is running smoothly
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	None

(Continued on page 8)

Other guest speakers took over after the break; Jim Allsopp of the Chicago Weather Bureau spoke on “Damage Survey” followed by Gino Izzi presenting “Squall Lines”. A panel on “SKYWARN Modernization” rounded out the morning’s program.



Randy Denzer



Joshua Janz

Luncheon spread out through the Tellabs lobby with multiple food stations offered. This also gave visitors a chance to visit the “CoCoRaHS” Network Booth. Signup applications were available to join this group of volunteers that takes weather measurements daily (see photo).



Bill Morris of Weather Bureau

The afternoon program featured a Panel discussing the “Blizzard of 2011” and the awarding of door prizes; lucky ticket holders received emergency equipment and weather radios. An enthusiastic audience endorsed the new location and continuation of the popular format.



Joe LeFebvre, N9WRO
John Cheney, N9MWF
Audio Visual Staff



Kurt Rubin, KB9RTO , Prize Winner

Bill Coons, KD9I, Silent Key, March 23rd, 2011

Pioneer WCRA member and Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame inductee , Bill Coons died on March 23rd. He will be missed by many members of the ham radio and aviation community. Bill had his Extra Class ticket, was a volunteer examiner and worked at many jobs in the Club.

He was the proud owner of one of the controversial Ercoupe planes, dedicated to the cause of Aviation Safety, and one of the moving forces behind the DuPage Airport Air Show. A resident of Lombard, he was a regular attendee of the Club Breakfast that was held weekly in the 70's.

Memorial Services will be held on Sunday, April 10th, at 1:30p.m. in the Mukenschnabl Hangar at DuPage County Airport. The hangar is located on the south side of North Avenue near Powis Road. The hangar will be decorated with balloons. Parking can be entered from Powis Road and North Avenue.

KEN KWAZNIEWSKI ---Nominee for Re-Election as Treasurer

I was first licensed in 1999 as KB9UZN, but moved on to get a “1 x 2” Extra Call of N9HQ. I am a volunteer examiner, too.

I joined WCRA ten years ago and have done my share of HamFest assignments. As a team captain at the 2009 Field Day on the Green Valley “mountain”, I came close to being blown off a cliff in the high winds that attacked my tent.

I live in West Chicago and have a shack which uses an Icom IC-746, IC-2000, IC-W32a and an RS HTX-242. Several scanners to monitor local police, fire and airport frequencies are on the shelves. Outside I have a small farm of antennas which includes a New Carolina Windom for my HF use and a Comet 2m/440 antenna for local use.

My job is with the DuPage County government for the past 27 years, and if re-elected I’ll try and keep the books organized so we’ll know where the money is at all times.

(Picture)

73 Ken



VICTOR CARTER, K9WXV. candidate for Vice President of WCRA

Hi Everyone

My name is Victor Carter, K9WXV. I am a candidate for Vice President of WCRA, and would like to introduce myself to all WCRA club members. I believe serving as a club officer would allow me to give back to WCRA in return for the fun I have had as a WCRA member.

I started in Ham Radio on 8/26/2000, earning my Tech license as KB9WXV, upgraded to Extra on 4/4/2007, and received my vanity call, K9WXV, on 3/31/2009. In 2003, I joined WCRA and attended the

club's Field Day in June. It was my first field day as a ham; I made 12 contacts on 15 meters and was hooked on Amateur Radio. As a member WCRA, I really enjoy volunteering for the club's public service events, working on the CCU team during parades, MS Special Olympics, and hamfest.

As a ham I operate mostly mobile operations because when I was working I had a long commute to work. After retiring I am working on my hamshack at home. My primary radios included an Yeasu FT-897 hf/2m/440 base, Kenwood D700 2m/440 mobile, and Kenwood TS-480 hf mobile. I enjoy operating on the WCRA CCU team, 2m/440/220 FM on Chicagoland repeaters, APRS, 40m ssb, and Skywarn spotting when the weather is bad. I live in Bellwood, Ill on the Cook/Dupage county border and can operate on repeaters in both counties. I am a strong supporter of ham radios operators helping out the community in times of disasters. As a ham I have volunteered in an ARES national disaster training exercise while I was working in Washington DC. and worked on the 2-day Wisconsin MS bikeride in 2009.

In May 2007, I retired after 33 years of service with the federal government. My career included 12 years with the U.S. Postal Service, as a mail processing equipment automation mechanic/electronic systems technician. And 21 years with the Federal Aviation Admin. as an NAS electronic systems technician/manager in Chicago, specializing in terminal radar, communications, and operations. I am proud to be a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1991, after serving 11 years in the Illinois Air National Guard, 126 Air Refueling Wing at Chicago O'Hare as an Avionics technician on KC-135 refueling tankers attaining the rank of TSgt (E-6).

In 2009, I returned to Moraine Valley Community College to pursue my associate degree in Cisco Information Technology and CCNA certifications, and I currently hold A+ Hardware/Software and Network + computer certifications.

If I am elected I would like to encourage members of WCRA to put together a mobile communications go kit to be used for community emergencies, using 2m mobile radios and battery power for longer range communications. I have some examples to show to the club. I would like to setup some mobile vhf/uhf/6m simplex nets for a couple of hours one day to experiment for club members to try. Overall I think WCRA is a good strong club and would like to continue the current club traditions.

Thanks and 73

Vic Carter

K9WXV



QST-Apr.2011-It's World Amateur Radio Day

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

APRIL 18-- THE THEME “Amateur Radio: The first technological-based social network.” That is explained on page 8 by David Sumner, K1ZZ, CEO of the ARRL. He feels the Hams were way ahead of the current techies who put together the Internet and cites the history of early amateur radio and the operators “relay” mission. Thus the “relay” in ARRL. Dave presents a bit of history and an introduction to the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), which is a recognized telecommunication organization. It was founded on April 18th, 1925.

VINTAGE RADIO—THE LAFAYETTE RADIO FACTORY—A glimpse back in time for the photos and narrative on a tour of the company’s 1930s factory in the heart of New York. Their modestly priced PB46A Phone and CW transmitter was set up in a three deck “mini rack” that appeared in many shacks from coast-to-coast. The article is by Columnist John Dilkes, K2TQN and appears on Pages 94 and 95.

DXers TAKE NOTE! There’s a new country in the making. The Republic of Sudan (ST) is made up of Arabs and Nubians in the north and Christians and Animist Nilotes in the south. A new country is being carved out of the extreme Southern portion. You can read all about it on Page 87 in Bernie McClenny’s column.

FIELD DAY IS COMING—two helpful ideas for antenna enhancement in this month’s issue are suggested. First, on pages 38 to 40, you’ll find a great idea for ground radials. Use steel measuring tapes—they can be adjusted to frequency needs and are inexpensive. A second idea, in case you can’t find a bow and arrow archer, make a giant sling shot. Look on page 99 under the “hints and kinks” column.

HELP ON YOUR SIGNAL REPORTS—Taking the RST report format seriously can be done if you read this month’s “Can you read me now?” article on Page 68 by Steve Andrea, AG1YK. He includes a chart of the three elements (Readability, Signal Strength, and Tone—cw only) and how to attach a number to each letter.

ARISSat-1 DEPLOYMENT DELAYED—Remember Kevin’s reference to the new Amateur Radio Satellite that was rocketed out in space on January 28th? The dramatic video on his program during the March meeting was great Ham Radio in action. The deployment delay was reported on Page 76 under “In Brief”. A photo shows it being tested last September at the Johnson Space Center.

Program	John, WT9Y	Next month will be Sal presenting some information about antennas that will be interesting and informative. Elections are also to be held.
Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	None
Membership	Paul, KA9RVS	
Tom, N9WBW	4 new members. Robert W9BGO, Steven KB9RCO, Erik KC9PAB, Ellyn W9ACO, Albert KA9LCF. Motioned by N9RTO seconded by KA3HSW	
VE Program	Averaging 3 to 4 people testing per month. Hamfest had a great turnout and we’re excited about all the new hams and upgrades. The club is thankful for the \$130 donation given from money received at the hamfest.	

(Continued on Page 12)

Illinois Repeater Association

2011 Annual Meeting Information

The annual meeting of the Illinois Repeater Association will be held Saturday, April 16, 2011 @ 10AM.

Eastland Suites Lodge and Conference Center
1801 Eastland Drive
Bloomington, IL.

This is the same location that we have used for the past years. Google Map

The Eastland Suites Conference Center is located at Eastland Drive and Prospect just off Veterans Parkway (Business 55). Exit Veterans Parkway at Route #9, which is also Empire Street. Proceed east approximately one block to Prospect then south to Eastland.

IRA Delegate check-ins and any dues payments will start at 9:00 AM, with the meeting starting at 10:00 AM. When dues are paid in advance the check-in process is quicker and eliminates much of the delay. As in the past we anticipate the meeting to conclude around noon.

IRA membership must be current for 2011 or later to vote at the meeting (\$12.00 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP). If your organization will be represented by someone not listed as a representative of you repeater in your membership information, please send your representative with a proxy letter signed by your repeater trustee/holder of coordination stating that they represent your repeater.

The Illinois Repeater Association web site has lots of valuable information including current membership status, contacts within the organization and meeting minutes.

<http://www.ilra.net/>

Every vote is important so that your association can effectively represent you in the multi-faceted problems facing the repeater owners of the country and Illinois in particular. Therefore, if you cannot attend this meeting and have no delegate in mind, we suggest that you appoint one of the current officers or directors to be your delegate. If you later decide to attend the meeting the presence of the trustee and/or president suspends any previous delegate appointment and/or written proxy.

If you have any questions, concerns or would like to have a subject placed on the agenda please contact the Secretary/Treasurer at the address below or the President, Rich Ranson, KD9Q,.

Larry Schroeder,KA9KDC
ILLINOIS REPEATER ASSOCIATION
Secretary/Treasurer
0N490 EVANS AVE.
WHEATON, IL 60187

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: _____

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mission Statement AB9RN / W9BK / N9WBW W9DHX has offered a suggestion and the group will meet to discuss before the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections Committee appointment Steve, N9OA Up for election are VP and Treasurer. Dale Kwarta has offered to be the committee lead.

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS Jim W9DHX discussed remnants of the Don Drake fund items. He had a stamp collection from Puerto Rico to share.

The club received a thank you letter from the winner of the \$200 cash award at the hamfest.

ADJOURNMENT

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer 7:58

The refreshments and program will follow the business meeting.

MEETING DATES FOR 2011

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 APRIL



DON N9NYX

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.

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 4th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145..31. Our program for Friday will consist of two mini presentations. The first will be by Kevin AB9RN on one of the latest weak signal communications mode - JT65 HF. This mode permits world wide communications utilizing only 5 or 10 watts. The second will be by John WT9Y on the ARRL's Logbook of the World. John will provide a Powerpoint presentation on what it takes to get started.
- 7th: 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.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for May.
- 28th. 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 Apr 1st, 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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Wheaton, Illinois 60187
eMail: donlin67@gmail.com

First Class Mail