



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 576

Founded 1948 September 2011



LAWRENCE JOHN SCHROEDER KA9KDC

Born Into Life: November 22, 1958

**Born Into Eternal Life: August 11,
2011**

WCRA Staff
Elected Officers

President Steve, N9OA
Vice President Vic, K9WXV
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 Tom, N9WBW
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

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

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Editor Don, N9NYX

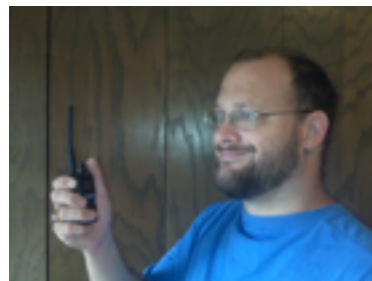
Photos

Features Jim, W9DHX

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From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

It was late one November evening in 1998 when I approached Steven, N9TPK of Bensenville who was then Vice President of the club. I informed Steven that I wanted to join the club. He said that the membership chairman was not at the meeting, but he had “the next best thing” her husband. It was then that I first met Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC. I explained that I had my license with me but not a copy to attach to the application that he provided me. It was then that I learned of Larry’s humor, he said that him seeing my original license and providing the original check should be just fine. The next meeting was in January of 1999, and I approached Larry after the meeting. I asked Larry when I could expect to be voted in. He checked the records and said, “oops! ... I guess you’re in ... welcome aboard” and shook my hand. It wasn’t till much later when the tower fell at COD and I served on the board of directors under Mark Potter, W9UZ that I found that Larry was not “the next best thing” I found Larry to be a true friend to the club. At what would be Larry’s last meeting that I learned of Larry’s boundless knowledge of repeater coordination. He had an idea for how we could

manage a repeater on the CSU. I told Larry that I had to begin the meeting and I would catch him later for more details. Later, of course, never came.

I shall truly miss Larry Schroeder and wish I had gotten to know him better. Tell those close to you how you feel because later may be too late.



On Saturday, August 27, WCRA participated in the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting. The event took place at Cantigny Park. Hundreds of Girls Scouts participated in this event. The club's CSU was brought to the event and several radios were set up. The scouts were allowed to make contacts on our 2 meter radio. Once word got out that the girls could talk on a real radio, they were lined up outside the CSU. They had a blast. We received excellent feedback from the Girls Scout organizers and they asked us back next year. I would like to thank Joe for bringing the CSU out and returning it home and Jim for bringing his "world famous hat-cam". The girls loved it. I would like to thank Steve, Mark, Mary and John for showing off our trailer and fielding questions from the girls. And a big thanks to Carol for being on the other end of the mike and making the girls feel at ease.



WCRA Meeting Minutes

Kevin, AB9RN
WCRA
Secretary



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs Agenda for Manual Meeting - August 5, 2011 First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL

CALL TO ORDER

Call Presiding Officer Call to order at 7:31pm by
Steve
Approval of Agenda Presiding Officer Approved

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS

Introductions Entire Assembly N9OA, KA0DSF, AB9RN, N9HQ, W9BK, KC9IJO, KC9TOD, N9HDW, KA9RVS, N9CBA, W9DMW, KB5TZX, AJ9M, W9UZ, WA9VAA, W9DHX, N9MWF, KC9UKN, N9WBW, KA0DSF, W9NJM

Opening Remarks Any Board Member Welcome
Tonight's program Vic, K9WXV No program tonight.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Corrections Secretary None
Approval Presiding Officer N9WBW motioned, N9MWF seconded. Motion carried.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Steve, N9OA None
Vice President Vic, K9WXV None
Secretary Kevin, AB9RN None
Treasurer Ken, N9HQ Ken gave a report
• Bank Account balances Balances were given
Property Custodian Bruce, KA0DSF Bruce is requesting those with club property in possession contact him asap. Our log of equipment needs to be updated and validated.

Steve reiterated the bylaws that club equipment can only be lent out to other with Bruce's approval.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Service Steve, N9OA Chicago marathon is coming and we have the necessary volunteers for this event.
CSU John, N9MWF John gave updates on his research for a dual-band radio with DSTAR. Estimated cost is \$500 and a replacement for the existing equipment is needed. A vote for budget approval for this will occur in one of upcoming meetings.
Hamfest John, WT9Y COD was approached, but is booked. 8/28/11 is first meeting to get planning started.
Club Awards John, N9MWF No report
Field Day Dale, NJ9E No report
Christmas Party Dale, NJ9E It's in December
Hamletter Don, N9NYX No report
RAB Don, N9NYX Tom gave a brief update on Larry KA9KDC's recovery.
Website Tom, N9WBW Up and running with the latest ham letter.
Training Charlie, WB9SGD No report

Program	Vic, K9WXV	In September there will be a member appreciate dinner at the church for members and their family. The date is September 9th. Doors open at 6:30pm, dinner at 7pm.
Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	No report
Membership	Tom, N9WBW	No new applications pending. Member roster will be sent out soon.
VE Program	No report	

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3FC, BSA Camperall – Oct. 2011	Steve, N9OA	Oct 14 – 16th is the event in Sandwich, IL. Volunteers needed.
Cuban Stamp Book	Jim, W9DHX	Last chance for the stamp book.
Club badges	Ken N9HQ	You can still get a club badge. Give Ken \$7 and we'll order you one.

NEW BUSINESS

Girl scout jamboree is in Cantigny on 8/27 from 10am to 2pm. The club is bringing the CSU out and volunteers are needed.

John motioned to purchase a replacement dual-band radio for the CSU with DSTAR. The allocation requested was \$600. Seconded by Jim W9DHX. Discussion occurred.

145.39 repeater is down. Thoughts were brought up about the need to look for commercial repeater space again. Ideas about purchasing our land might make sense.

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS

An opportunity to obtain a long-term lease on a commercial tower at 198 feet in Glendale Heights was mentioned by AB9RN. RAB will look into the opportunity and present updates going forward.

ADJOURNMENT Adjourned at 8:40pm

** Refreshments and meeting program will follow the business meeting. **

Elephant Thorn

A man goes to Africa on a safari. While there, he comes upon an elephant, in great pain, with a giant thorn in its foot. The man very carefully approaches the elephant, and gingerly removes the thorn from its foot. The elephant begins to walk away, then turns and stares at the man for a full minute, locking eyes with him. The elephant then continues on its way. "I wonder if I ever see that elephant again if it will remember me?", the man muses to himself.

A few years later, and the man is at a circus back in the States. He notices that one of the elephants keeps looking at him, almost like it KNOWS him. The man wonders, "Could this be that elephant I helped so long ago?" He decides to get a closer look. With the elephant still giving him the stare-down, the man moves in closer, getting right up in front of the elephant. They lock eyes. A knowing look seems to cross the elephant's face. It reaches down... picks the man up carefully with its trunk... lifts him high in the air... and THROWS HIM CRASHING TO THE GROUND AND STOMPS HIM TO DEATH!

Turns out it wasn't THAT elephant.

Visit with Ruth Ann and Wayne Kiser, KF9JC July 2011.

Our good friends invited us up for the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Traverse City, MI. We spent three delightful days with them catching up on a lot of things. They have a beautiful new home in a subdivision near Traverse City. It is two levels on about ½ acre with many large trees. The basement includes the Ham Shack, of course, a room for group discussion about the Bible, and another room with computers for his publishing work. He has been working on a book for several years now, but approvals are necessary before going to press. They have a car garage, where a long red canoe is kept.

While at the Festival, the Fire Department had on display a 3,100 pound chunk of one of the Twin Towers supporting columns. The photo shows the Metro Fire Department with the Chief at the lower left. The other photo shows Wayne in his Chaplain's uniform.

They have joined the East Bay Calvary Church, with about 300 members. Wayne is active, but no longer pastoring.

Wayne maintains a weekly schedule on 40 fone with his son in North Carolina; however much of his time is spent working with the Chaplains for the Office of Emergency Management. Wayne introduced me to the Fire Chief of the Grand Traverse Metro fire Department. He is working, along with a number of other people, on a Remembrance Day program for distribution on September 11, 2012.

Ruth Ann is an excellent cook. She kept us well fed and busy up to the minute that we left. They are in good health and have slowed down only a little. They send their regards to all their many friends in this area. Now that you know about them, they would like to hear from you.

Mark Potter, W9UZ



QST Sept.'11 Review-Hams Join In Emergency Communications and Public Service Tasks

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

HAMS CONTINUE TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF EMERGENCY SERVICE

This month's issue is devoted to "emergency service", where hams have always stepped in to help "when all else fails" and a message needs to get through. The Cover Story tells about two hams who work for the National Institute of Health in Washington, DC, and have devised a system of linking three hospitals with an emergency HF e-mail service! Victor Cid, W3CID, and Andrew Mitz, WA3LTJ, tell about their unique program for connecting hospitals in Maryland during major disasters via Amateur Radio. See their five page article with diagrams and photos on pages 30 through 34.

UPGRADE ON THE "GRAB AND GO" KIT—NOW IT IS "THE RADIO IN A BOX II"

It is an "Emergency Package (Box) to hold a dual band VHF/UHF rig, batteries, antenna and the paperwork needed to perform in an emergency. Geoff Haines, NIGY, worked it out using only materials and equipment he already had on hand. Could you do it with what you have in your shack? Check how what you could put together compares with his ideas on pages 35-38.

"ALABAMA SLAMMER" REVIEWED BY DAVE GILLESPIE, W4LHQ

Dave's article on page 63 says that the training hams had before the storm was crucial to providing top-notch communication support to area agencies. Hams were of particular help with damage assessment reports as shown in dramatic scenes recorded in Tuscaloosa.

FLORIDA HAM BUILDS AN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION VAN ON HIS OWN

Mike Lee, WB6RTH, is an IT consultant and manager for a large data processing firm on the East Coast of Florida. The story of his conversion of a Dodge Sprinter Van into an "ultimate" emergency vehicle is fascinating reading as reported on pages 65-67. You'll enjoy comparing this machine to our CSU. Mike spent \$65,000. His design decisions were influenced by his previous emergency work on previous events, for example the 1989 SanFrancisco earthquake.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SIGNS MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ARRL

In the "Happenings" column on page 75, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, is shown signing an "MoU" with officials of the NWS at their headquarters in Blacksburg, VA. This is to serve "as a framework within which volunteers may coordinate their services, facilities and equipment with the NWS in support of nationwide, state and local early weather warning and emergency communication function."

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER



CARL	N9GZR
JACK	KA9HEL
PAT	K9JAU
TOM	N9CBA

If you do not see your birthday listed here in your birth month, please contact the editor with your information.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st: 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.
- 9th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145.31. There is no meeting this month in that the club will hold a recognition dinner at the church.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for October.
- 22nd. 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 (Recognition Dinner) Sept 9, 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.

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