



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 577

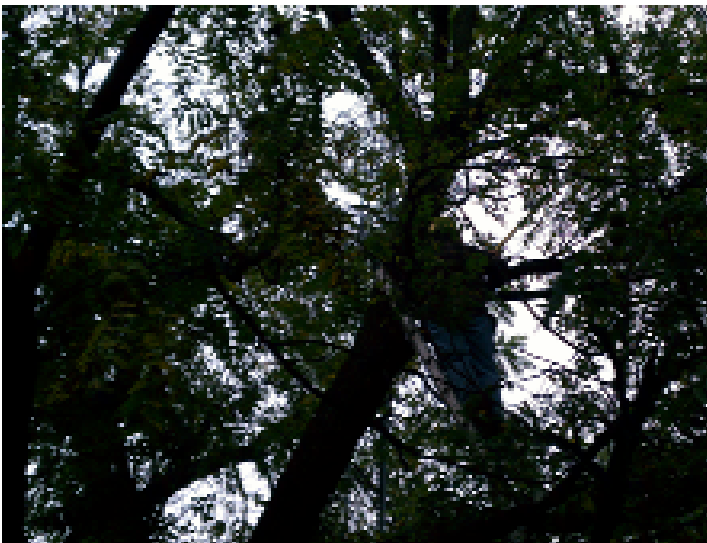
Founded 1948 October 2011



On the 25 of September, Ken/N9HQ, Bob/NV9R, Rich/N9DKO and Roberto/WA9E performed some maintenance work on Carol's tower and home of the WCRA repeater. Bob stealthily climbed the tower up to it's outer limits, tightening nuts, bolts and coax connectors. With the exception of one of the UHF antennas up top, all of the other antennas looked good. Some minor tree trimming was done to make way for the guy wires. All in all,



everything was ship shape. Thanks to all that helped. Let's try to make this an annual club function for Carol.



Pictures are from Ken Kwasniewski.



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

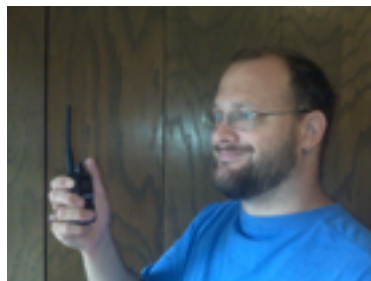
Photos

Features Jim, W9DHX

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From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

WCRA'ers, et. al

It is that time at which I whip together my last minute article for the Hamletter.

1. Meeting is Friday. Same Bat time. Same Bat channel.
2. The Christmas party is coming. Stay tuned.
3. Hamfest is coming. Call WT9Y with questions or KC9IJO to volunteer.

73,
Steve N9OA
Da Prez

WCRA
Meeting
Minutes

Kevin, AB9RN
WCRA
Secretary



August minutes appeared in the
September issue of the HamLetter.

**TWO ANTENNAS
MET ON A ROOF,
FELL IN LOVE,
AND GOT MAR-
RIED. THE CERE-
MONY WASN'T
MUCH, BUT THE
RECEPTION WAS
EXCELLENT.**

QST –OCT. –The Shack in “Mr. Popper’s Penguins” –How it Got Together on Screen

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

When you see Ham Gear in a movie scene, you wonder why they didn't get it right. In this blockbuster movie from last summer's screen they did a good job. The story behind it is on page 75 of this month's QST. In this case, the Assistant Prop Manager for the set was the son of a Ham, Jack Schankar, W2STM, of Rochester, N. Y. The movie was set in 1970, and so all the equipment was shipped off to the movie studio, right out of the shack. Jack had to be on the set, too. His biggest problem was making the meter needles work when there was no one really transmitting. His regular job is that of a professor of Engineering Technology at the Rochester Institute of Technology and his QSL card plus a mug shot of Jim Carrey with penguins is reproduced with the article by S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, of the ARRL News Staff.

FRENCH AND SWISS TEAM BREAKS DISTANCE RECORD ON 10 GHz.

The “microwave ham community” is a select group of amateurs that are motivated to try and surpass the exiting records. In June of 2000 it was set by a contact between Israel and Italy—2079 Kilometers. Notice it was all over water. The “evaporation duct” over water averages 13 inches in height, and enough to keep the signal going for long distances. The story on page 68 tells how they picked sites off the East African coast to straight line it to mainland Portugal to create the new record. Pierre-Andre Probst, HB9AZN, one of the participants, tells the story.

DXPEDITION TO THE TIP OF SOUTH AMERICA—JUST FOR A COUPLE OF ISLANDS

Yes, Cezar Trifu, VE3LYC, and his partner, Johan, PA3EXX, did just that despite the ship killing winds that circulate around the infamous “Cape Horn”. Cezar gives us four pages of narrative and photos of this classic adventure that added the No. 1 most wanted island in South America and the No. 6 in the world wide list to the IOTA (Islands on the Air). You probably have not heard of them: Herschel and Gonzalo Island. Not only did they withstand the winds, but a pair of Caracara birds (a type of Austral falcons) would peck away at their radial masts, causing them to fall and break. They operated on 17, 20 and 30 meters with a total of 3058 QSOs with 2378 stations. What a personal accomplishment for those two hams! See pages 64 through 67.

HOW BIG CAN A FIELD DAY GET? MIGHTY BIG—50 SEPARATE TRANSMITTERS

Two Baltimore Radio Clubs have their own FD tradition; they join forces to have a BIG Field Day that upsets the statistics normally received from most Clubs. Read about the fun they have on Page58 of this month's issue. In 2004 they had their biggest and captured it on video, hoping to sell it to other clubs for \$20 as a program.

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER



STEVE

N9OA

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

OCTOBER 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. The program for this month is a state secret and will be divulged when you arrive.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for November.
- 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 Oct 7, 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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Club and HamLetter Mailing Address:

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First Class Mail