



HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
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WCRA SPEAKS UP FOR HAM RADIO AT 3-FIRES BOY SCOUT CAMPORALL EVENT

Four thousand Boy Scouts and Parents were gathered on October 15th for the flag raising in front of the Grandstand at Historic Sandwich Fair Grounds. After the opening ceremonies, one of the most popular stops they made was the WCRA Communication Support Unit and 10 other working stations and equipment displays and exhibits. The project was headed by Peter Richey, N9HDW, who recruited volunteers to dedicate their time



to showing members of the 3-Fires Council the versatility and excitement of Ham Radio.

The location had high visibility—a white three-foot helium balloon flew over the area, suspending an inverted Vee antenna. There were seven additional antennas connected to trees, a beam on the roof of the CSU, verticals from platforms—even a satellite beam on a tripod.

Frequency spectrum charts, maps, and other displays lined the area, explaining how ham radio covered the world. More important, there were crowds of scouts and parents, lined up to “talk on the radio”. At the Amateur Television Display, they lined up to “see themselves” on the TV screen. Our

broadcast spectrum went from: ATV 2.3GHz, UHF- 70 cm, VHF 6 meter and 2 meter, Multiple Bands and modes on Satellite, SSB-6m, 10m, 20m, 40m, and 80m.

Operating stations were “overrun” by scouts wanting to get their hands on a microphone as the various bands opened up. Twenty meters was great in the morning and achieved some unusual contacts. Signals reached all the way into Ukraine and Guatemala with our WA9BSA call sign.

KA3HSW(George Henry) used his AO-27 satellite equipment to send a signal into Cuba. Numerous stateside stations responded to the our calls--after all, this happened to be “Jamboree On The Air” (JOTA) day as well as the Camporall.

Broad participation from fifteen club members, five non-club members, and other non-hams helped in the endeavor. Another popular attraction was the Direction Finding Display, complete with the “Fox” and RDF “hunting” gear. N9CBA, (Tom Geletka), the Club’s most avid RDF enthusiast, brought his personal equipment to amaze the young visitors.



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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

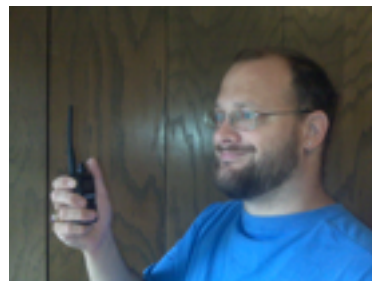
WCRA Repeaters

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

HAMLETTER

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From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

Members, Friends:

Thanksgiving is a holiday in the US dating back to colonial days and became a federal holiday on the fourth Thursday of November on December 26, 1941. This year, Thanksgiving is on November 24. I bring this up because I want to thank each of you for taking that time annually to renew your membership and remain members of this great organization (by the way, they are due by December 31 with a grace period until the May 2012 meeting)

Specifically, I have a few shout outs:

Don, N9NYX; Thank you for producing a fine newsletter and being patient with a long delay for articles after reminding me that I missed the deadline by an obscene number of days.

To my board of Directors (Vic, Ken, Kevin and Bruce): I appreciate all that you do. Ken keeps the check book balanced and all the bills paid and Kevin puts up with my quirks.

To the Schroder Family, Carol, Larry (SK), Kelsey and Samantha: Thank you for walking around the box that has its own room in your home for the past ten years and counting...

(Continued on Pages 7,8, & 9)



WCRA
Meeting
Minutes
 Kevin, AB9RN
 WCRA
 Secretary



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Agenda for Annual Meeting - October 7, 2011

First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL

CALL TO ORDER

Call Presiding Officer Call to order 7:32 by Steve

Approval of Agenda Presiding Officer Adding Drake

Scholarship update Agenda approved

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS

Introductions Entire Assembly W9DHX, WA9VAA, W9LIW, NV9R, KC9UHE, KA9HEL, N9CBA, NJ9E, W9BK, KC9PWL, W3MDM, N9MWF, KC9UKN, KA9RVS, N9HDW, KB9RTO, WA9JON, WA9BSA, KD7XMB, N9OPP, N9HQ, AB9RN, KB9FYL, N9OA

Opening Remarks Appreciate WT9Y helping out with the program tonight on one of the largest field day setups around.

Tonight's program: John, WT9Y

Program Committee W3AO Field Day

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Corrections Secretary
 W9DHX motioned ,KB9RTO seconded, approved

OFFICER REPORTS

President	Steve, N9OA	None
Vice President	Vic, K9WXV	Not present
Secretary	Kevin, AB9RN	None
Treasurer	Ken, N9HQ	Balance updates were given.
• Bank Account balances		
Property Custodian	Bruce, KA0DSF	Not present

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Service	Steve, N9OA	
BACM	John, WT9Y	Looking forward to Chicago Marathon this weekend. We are cleared to bring the CSU.
CSU	John, N9MWF	New radio being programmed for marathon channels and upcoming boy scout event with HF.
Hamfest	John, WT9Y	Fest will be in January as usual. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.
Club Awards	John, N9MWF	None
Field Day	Dale, NJ9E	None
Christmas Party	Dale, NJ9E	Still looking for ideas still, but currently thinking Mullen's
Irish Pub in Lisle. 12/4 tentative at 3pm.		
Hamletter	Don, N9NYX	Not present

RAB	Don, N9NYX	Nothing significant to report. Options for a new repeater tower are still being explored.
Website	Tom, N9WBW	Not present
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	Not present
Program	Vic, K9WXV	Not present
Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	Not present
Membership	Tom, N9WBW	Not present
VE Program	Web site updated recently. Good numbers passing recently.	

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3FC, BSA Camperall – Oct. 2011 Steve, N9OA

Peter, N9HDW

Jon Two gentlemen attended our meeting to answer questions about the scouting event with the attendees. Geneva, Switzerland scouts requested that we plan a sked with them as part of this event and the simultaneous JOTA event.

WT9Y Motioned, N9HDW seconded a request for \$150 budget to cover CSU gas and helium for balloon antennas

Jim is accepting Drake scholarship nominees

NEW BUSINESS

Steve discussed the concern that Vic our club vice-president has not been reachable since early July. A motion by Tom N9CBA and seconded by Joseph KC9UHE to rescind the election of Vic. Discussion took place. Questions were asked about what methods have been used to reach him. Others were concerned as well, but the decision was to make another attempt to reach him by certified letter between now and the next meeting in November. The vote occurred, and the motion did not carry.

Bob Seaburg noted that his old antenna and rotor are still available to anyone that can take them down at his prior home in Wheaton.

Kurt knows someone with a 25 foot tower for free.

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS

Ken N9HQ recapped the four club members that helped inspect the repeater site and tower. Appreciation for those that helped with this was shared.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned.

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

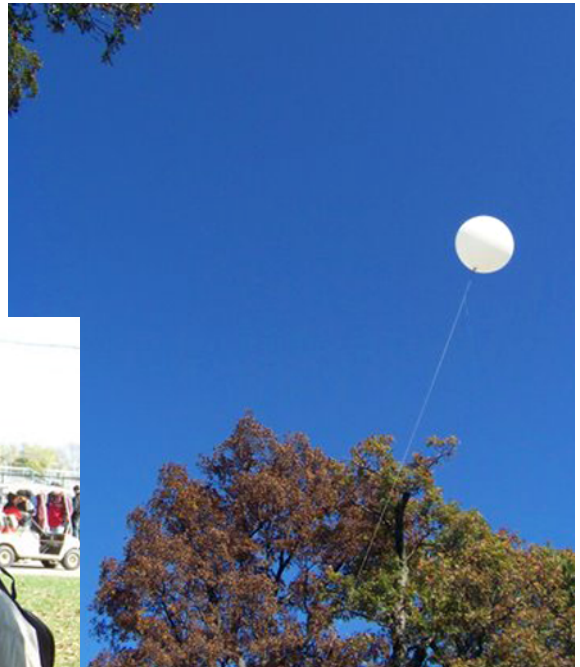
Mission Statement

"The mission of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs is to further the art of radio communications and electronics by mentoring anyone with like interests, participating in community events, preparedness in assisting in the event of a disaster where other communication modes can fail, while promoting social camaraderie among its members."

Also manning the Fox and RDF gear was N9CBA.

Our information table had plenty of traffic on how to get a Radio Merit Badge—and to actually meet one of two merit badge counselor right on site. The ARRL “Hello to Ham radio” folder was popular to answer questions. “Special thanks are due to those who brought their own equipment”, commented N9HDW. “It made the displays a working example of radios in a real performance mode..”

Here is the list of the members who participated: N9WRO(CSU tow-in), N9MWF, NJ9E, AC3Q, KC9IJO, N9OA, WT9Y, W9DHX, K9ILF,WA9ACO, AB9RN (plus 2 harmonics, Colin and Abbey), KB5TZX, N9CBA, KA3HSW and N9HDW.



Others who helped: WA9JON (arranged our special event WA9BSA call), KR1SH, KX9RJ, KC9SEM, and N9OPP. There were between 500 and a thousand visitors estimated to have passed through the area and experienced



Ham Radio in Action! Thanks to all who represented us so well.



QST Nov. Review- Projects for Winter Building

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

“FOR YOU LISTENING PLEASURE” –A DSP SPEAKER

Does your receiver have DSP processing built in? If not, why not build yourself a DSP speaker to cut out that unwanted noise, giving you the signal you want to hear. Page 31 starts out the article by Allen Baker, KG4JJH that describes how to do the job. It is also shown on the front cover of this month’s issue.

ANTENNAS TO BEAT THE COMMUNITY RESTRICTIONS

Some of us have home owner associations that ban ham antennas. QST has a couple of antennas this month that are designed just for you. You have a choice; one disguises as a flower trellis or yard decoration and the other pretends to be a downspout. The downspout is on page 45 and handles 160 or 80 with ease and uses a lot of hardware store parts, as well as the downspout itself. The design uses a brass toilet bowl float as a cap, which gives it a classy look. Dave Holdeman, N9 XU, put it together.

The lawn decoration antenna needs to be positioned near some shrubbery to make it look authentically like a gardening device. The author, Cristian Paun, WV6N, has a small orange tree in the background of his photo on page 35. He claims he can work all bands between 3.5 and 30 Mhz with ease and has the World Wide DX points to prove it.

ANDROID SMART PHONE USERS—ALERT FOR AMATEUR RADIO RELATED APPS

Page 69 and 67 review some interesting ham related apps that you may not have know existed. Bill Vartorella, KJ4ORX, has gone to great lengths to look them up for you from various sources.

EQUIPMENT REVIEW

ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager, Mike Corey, W5MPC, takes a look at the new Yaesu FT-450D HF and 6 meter transceiver on Page 55. One of the many new features is that it adds a “standard internal antenna tuner.” These are refinements that make the popular, low cost transceiver even better.

ICOM TAKES A TWO PAGE AD ON “DIGITAL HF DSP”

Since many of us haven’t seen what an HFDSP transceiver looks like—unless you’ve seen the one in the CSU—you might want to check out pages 138-139 in the back of this month’s issue. ICOM shows pictures of their four models and suggests their major features.

From The President’s Gavel

John, WT9Y. What can I say, I have a habit, “Ask Faber”. Thank you for the Hamfest. Oh and the marathon.... And And... Thank you for being there.

Joe, N9WRO: Wow! Thanks for everything with the CSU. We can never thank you enough.

Speaking of the CSU, Thank you to Joseph KC9UHE. You just jumped right and and pulled the gizmo.

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER



MARK

W9UZ

ROBERTO

WA9E

JOE

N9WRO

ROBERT

N9IRY

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

From The President's Gavel

And the CSU wouldn't be complete without the detailed reports from John, N9MWF. Thank you also for being my public service and emergency sounding board. You are a good friend.

Wearing the other hat of Public Service, George NE9ET, Mark, Mary, Vic, Dale, Faber, Jack, Joseph and Kurt ... Thank you all.

Mary, KC9IJO does a lot because she wants me to look good as president. Can't get that Jaycee out of her ... Love you, dear.

Peter, N9HDW: Your advise is always appreciated and usually implemented. Thank you for your commitment to amateur radio education.

CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day: Dale, thanks. And for bringing your "other wife" Hal. Thank you to Hal for

From The President's Gavel

keeping the event lively,.

Ellen (WA9ACO), and Al (K9ILF) jumped right in with both feet. Thank you.

Tom N9CBA and Rich N9DKO: Thank you for your commitment and behind the scenes work on the repeaters.

Tom N9WBW: Website, Membership, that danged roster ... Thanks. And, thank you for the leadership on the mission statement with yourself, Bob, W9BK and Kevin.

Welcome to hamfest. We wouldn't hear the PA without Doug, W9NJM. Also, Doug is a valuable asset in our repeaters.

Roberto, thanks for housing the 220 and keeping the Facebook group active.

Jim, W9DHX, our friendly hospitality coordinator (unofficial) and my first on air contact. Thank you for the reminders that my e-mail works.

George, KA3HSW's participation is always OUT OF THIS WORLD.

Orrin, Bob W3MDM Steve KC9RCO, Paul KA9RVS and Krishna: Thank you for always being there to participate.

Charlie, WB9SGD, You lined up a home for the CSU. Thank you and sorry that we didn't use it.

Bill, N9BT and Don (a/k/a Dad), KB9UFS: Thank you for your annual assistance at Hamfest.

I look forward to seeing all you at the meeting.

73,
Steve, N9OA
DA Prez

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR DUES IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO. PLEASE SEE THE APPLICATION THAT IS NEAR THE BACK OF NEXT MONTH'S HAMLETTER. REMEMBER THAT ONLY PAID UP MEMBERS MAY VOTE.

NOVEMBER 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. The program for this month
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for December.
- 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 Nov 4, 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

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