



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 579

Founded 1948 December 2011



*MERRY CHRIST-
MAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR*

**WCRA Christmas Party –
December 4th, 2011 at 5 PM**

**Mullen's Address: Northeast corner of Naperville and
Warrenville Roads**

Come to our "casual" Holiday get-together here at Mullen's. Relax, play a game of pool, darts, or golden tee. We'll have food, cash bar, and plenty of good cheer! We must have a final count for Mullen's by November 29th. The cost is \$25.00 per person. **(Continued on page 2)**

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

Editor Don, N9NYX

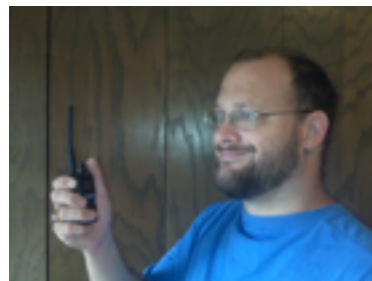
Photos

Features Jim, W9DHX

HAMLETTER 24 HOUR FAX 888 665-8246

HAMLETTER eMail address:
donlin67@ameritech.net

This publication uses QuarkXPress 8.12 and Photoshop CS3



From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

Merry Christmas
Happy Diwali
Happy Hanukkah
Happy Kwanzaa
Season's Greetings
Happy New Year

Please accept my heart felt wishes to you and your's this holiday season. Please plan to attend the holiday party Ruth has worked so hard on. Bring your pool cue.

Hope Santa brings you a new Yeasu, Icom, or Kenwood.

73,
Steve
N9OA
Da Prez.....

You can either leave a message at 630-858-8541, or email us at either

rkwarta@aol.com or tis02@aol.com.

Please let us know how many in your party and the names, please.

(Continued on page 5)

**WCRA
Meeting
Minutes**
Kevin, AB9RN
WCRA
Secretary



**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Agenda for the Regular Club Meeting for November
November 4, 2011
First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis,
Wheaton, IL**

CALL TO ORDER
Call Presiding Officer Called to order at 7:31 by

Steve

Approval of Agenda Presiding Officer Motioned and seconded, motioned carried

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS

N9HQ, N9OA, W9DHX, KA0DSF, WT9Y, NE9ET, W9LIW, WA9VAA, WA9FTS, N9CBA, AJ9M, NV9R, NJ9E, AC3Q, KC9IJO, KC9UHE, W9BK, WA9ACO, K9ILF, KA9RVS, W9NJM, K9JAU, KC9PWL, KB9RTO, KB9RCO, N9MWF, N9WBW

Opening Remarks Remember to set your clocks back for daylight savings time
Tonight's program John, WT9Y
Program Committee Kevin AB9RN and John WT9Y presented a demo of the FLEX-1500 SDR which will be reviewed in the December 2011 QST.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Corrections Secretary None
Approval Presiding Officer Motioned by ,Seconded by N9WBW

OFFICER REPORTS

President Steve, N9OA None
Vice President Vic, K9WXV Not present
Secretary Kevin, AB9RN No report
Treasurer Ken, N9HQ Checking balances were given
Property Custodian Bruce, KA0DSF No report

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Service Steve, N9OA No report
CSU John, N9MWF John highlighted some of the successful CSU events with Boy Scouts and the Marathon. With all the different radios on the CSU, John asked for volunteers to put together a quick reference sheet for each so others could use the radios more rapidly in the future.
Hamfest John, WT9Y John brought tickets and flyers for the fest. Mary passed around the volunteer signup sheet. Contact John or Mary if you want to volunteer! Next planning meeting is at 7pm on 11/19. January 22nd is the fest.
Club Awards John, N9MWF No report
Field Day Dale, NJ9E We are seeking a new chairperson for the field day effort. Dale is in the process of rebuilding the HF beam which was mounted on the CSU at the boy scout camperall. He's found replacement parts from Hygain and has been laboring to clean it up and make it easier to setup and use. Motion for \$100 for parts, was seconded and carried. Thanks Dale!

Christmas Party Sunday 12/4 at 5pm.	Dale, NJ9E	The plan is to have it at Mullen's Pub in Lyle on
Hamletter	Don, N9NYX	No report
RAB	Don, N9NYX	Efforts continue
Website	Tom, N9WBW	Updates for this month were posted
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	No report
Program	Vic, K9WXV	No report
Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	No report
Membership renewal for 2011 in today!	Tom, N9WBW	Renewals are in process. Don't wait, get your
VE Program		No session in October. September yielded 2 testers passing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Office of the Vice President Kevin AB9RN gave an update about the certified letter that was sent on 10/28 to Vic asking that he make contact with the board members before the November meeting. No response was received. The motion to rescind the office of vice president was made by N9WBW, Seconded by N9MWF. A vote occurred and the motioned carried.

It was asked about the hardline lost at COD. An update will be provided at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of Drake Scholarship Jim noted that the fund will be increased to \$300 and is being awarded to Larry Schroeder KA9KDC posthumously. John WT9Y provided kind words of the many good things Larry did for the club.

Three Fires Council Scoutarama We have been invited to support the scoutarama on 5/19/12 from 9 to 6pm.

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS

ADJOURNMENT Adjourned at 8:10pm

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

A special board of directors meeting was held at 8:11pm to discuss the vacancy for the office of vice-president. A discussion occurred with Joe KC9UHE about his desire to fill the vacancy until the next official election in April of 2012. A motion was made by Kevin AB9RN to appoint Joe KC9UHE which was seconded by Bruce KA0DSF. The motioned carried and we welcome Joe into his new role and give him our support! The meeting was adjourned at 8:16.

QST Dec.'11- Holiday Issue and FlexRadio Software News

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

NOVEMBER MEETING PROGRAM AND DEMO IS FEATURED ARTICLE THIS MONTH

As promised by Kevin, the article on the equipment used on his Club Meeting program is headlined on the QST cover along with a frosty beam array photograph. Reviewer H. Ward Silver, N0AX, uses a record five pages (45 to 49) to compress into copy, charts, graphs, and photos the information that Kevin told us in his demo. The FLEX-1500 is the model reviewed. It is a HF+6 Meter QRP Transceiver.

HOW ABOUT AN HF BEAM UNDER YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE?

Our ARRL/QST friend from the 2011 Hamfest, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, suggest some gift ideas to make an appropriate addition to your wish list. He devotes pages 61 and 62 to your options for various site conditions and your style of operating. Four different styles are shown in photographs, including the “Spiderbeam” and the “SteppiR”.

HINTS AND KINKS ON RESTORATION

Those of you who may have some rusty equipment sitting around would enjoy this month’s suggestion on cleaning up a SX-101 chassis. Other good ideas for bringing equipment back to working order are included, beginning on page 56.

LAPTOP QRP STATION LAYOUT FOR NON-SHACK OPERATION

Stan Levandowski, WB2LOF, had a great idea for making it easy to operate his QRP rig from his lap! He mounted all the components on a 12 by 24” plywood board, cut a carrying handle and headed to any location where he could toss an antenna into a tree! Stan took his setup to a “QRP in the Park” event at his local club. It attracted raves from his fellow members, so thus the well illustrated four page article on pages 30-33. He also enjoys it in front of his fireplace at home,

GET OUT YOUR PROPANE TORCH AND BUILD A NEW J-POLE VARIANT DESIGN

It is a dual band “Slim Jim” for 2-meters and 440 that can be suspended from a tree limb. It has a lot of good features as described by the designer, Al Peters, AC8GY, on pages 41-43. Al gives you pictures and detailed construction hints.

(Continued from page 2)

The meal will consist of:

Artichoke Dip

Stuffed Mushrooms

House Salad

Roasted Vegetables

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Herb Baked Chicken

Dinner Rolls

Unlimited Non-Alcoholic Beverages

Dessert

Don Drake Memorial Scholarship for 2011 Awarded Posthumously to Larry Schroeder

KA9KDC, Larry Schroeder, Silent Key, was named the Don Drake Award recipient for the current year at the November WCRA meeting for his outstanding public service to the Ham Community in maintaining and acting as host for the Club's W9CCU Repeater. The award was announced to the Club by John Faber , WT9Y, the 2010 Award winner. (See Photo)

Don Drake's widow, Dorothy, established the Fund with a private donation and also gave the Club Don's ham equipment. Some items were used to equip the Communications Support Unit, but most equipment was sold at auctions or at the Hamfest to supplement the Scholarship donation amount. This extended the years of the Scholarship to eight and the amount to \$300.

The Club Repeater is still at the Schroeder residence, but Larry's wife, Carol, KB9FYL, says "there is no rush" to find a new home for it. Plans are underway to relocate the equipment and antenna on a new site. Ever since the WDCB tower crashed, the Schroeder family has had the repeater as a "roomer" at their home.



OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER



BOB	W3MDM
DOUG	W9NJM
GEORGE	KA3HSW

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

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



Dale, NJ9E, and Pat, K9JAU, chat during the break at the November meeting. Pat's guide dog is a well behaved visitor

Kevin, AB9RN, poses with his equipment for the demonstration of FlexRadio. The new operating system is reviewed in the December QST.



The following are meeting dates for the WCRA club:

- Jan 6
- Feb 3
- Mar 2
- Apr 13
- May 4
- June 2
- July 13
- Aug Member appreciation dinner
- Sep 7
- Oct 5
- Nov 2
- Dec Christmas Party



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

P. O. Box QSL ● Wheaton, IL 60187-5139 ● Phone/Fax (630) 604-0157
wcra@w9ccu.org ● www.w9ccu.org

DUES

- Full Member \$26
- Student/Sr. Citizen \$13
- Associate (No License) \$13
- Family member of _____ \$39/household
(Call)
- Club Badge \$7 Name on badge _____

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Year	_____
Cash \$	_____
Ck #	_____ \$ _____

Name _____	ARS Callsign _____
Address _____	APT _____
City _____	State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone : Home _____	Mobile _____ Work _____
E-mail _____	ARRL Member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Signature / Date _____	
Sponsor's signature / Call (new members only) _____	

ONLY MEMBERS APPEARING ON THE OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP LIST AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION ARE ELIGIBLE FOR RENEWAL.

Please indicate events where you would like to assist or serve on the committee

Hamfest (January) Special Olympics (April) MS Walk (May)
 Field Day (June) 4th of July Parade Christmas Party

Please indicate additional areas where you would like to assist the club

Website Newsletter Elmering VE Testing Member Retention

Other _____

DECEMBER 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.

4th: THE WCRA CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD AT MULLEN'S RESTURANT ON DECEMBER 4TH AT 5 PM.

20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for January.

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 Jan 6th, 2012, 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@ameritech.net

First Class Mail