



HAMLETTER
 Published Monthly
 Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
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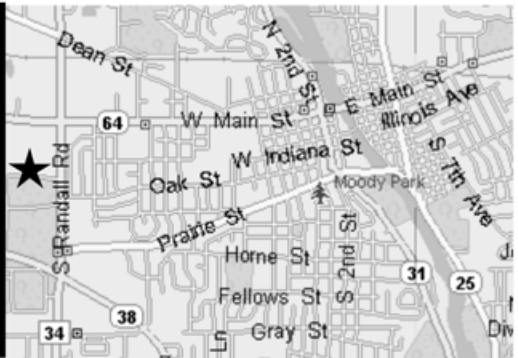


MID-WINTER HAMFEST

Ham Radio, Computers and Electronics Flea Market

Plenty of FREE Parking ● Reserved Flea Market Tables ● Hourly Prizes
 VE Testing for all License Classes ● Forums

Sunday, January 22, 2012
Doors open at 8AM (Closes at 1PM)
Kane County Fairgrounds
525 S. Randall Rd., St Charles, IL



Talk-In on WCRA's 2M Repeater 145.31/- (107.2 Hz)
 or National Simplex Frequency 146.52 Mhz

Tickets:

Advance, 4 raffle stubs \$8

At the door, 1 raffle stub \$10

Flea Market:

\$25/table (\$30 day, if avail.)

Electricity available for \$10



(630) 604-0157 info@w9ccu.org www.w9ccu.org

Advance Ticket and Flea Market Table Order Form

Name _____ Call _____ Tickets @\$8.00 = \$ _____

Address _____ Tables @\$25.00 = \$ _____

Electricity (\$10.00) \$ _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please include an e-mail address so that we can confirm your order along with an SASE for delivery of tickets.

Mail to: WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60187-1055

WCRA Staff
Elected Officers

President Steve, N9OA
Vice President Joseph, KC9UHE
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

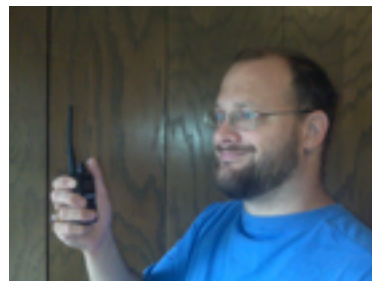
Photos

Features Jim, W9DHX

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From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

Happy New Year! I hope all of you enjoyed your holiday season which began with a wonderful party at Mullen's expertly executed by Ruth and Dale. Ruth is already seeking suggestions for next year, Thanks, guys!

December 31 was not only the last day of the year it was also the due date for your membership dues. Fear not, there is still time to get your dues paid to continue your membership in 2012. Your home mortgage or rent has a grace period measured in days. Ours is measured in months! The grace period for the club is the April meeting, but please save our membership chair, Tom, the time of contacting you and get it in right away.

Hamfest is coming! Hamfest is coming! John WT9Y and his committee are hard at work making this hamfest the spectacular event for which we all have come to expect. Mary, KC9IJO and Joseph KC9UHE (soon to have a new call) already have or will be calling in order to staff the event to keep John's efforts from going to waste. Please sign up early and often.

Until next month ...

73,
Steve
Da Prez

**WCRA
Meeting
Minutes**

Kevin, AB9RN
WCRA
Secretary



The minutes for the November meeting were published last year.

WCRA 2012 HAMFEST FORUMS SET

Peter Richey N9HDW reports that the forum schedule for Sunday, January 22 has been completed. The forums and presenters are:

9:30 AM Chicago Marathon Amateur Radio

Presenter: Rob Orr K9RST - Chicago Marathon - Amateur Radio Leadership Council

10:30 AM ARRL Town Hall

Presenter: George "Dick" Isley W9GIG - ARRL Central Division Director

11:30 AM IRLP/Echolink

Presenter: Dick Illman AH6EZ - FRRL Repeater Chairman

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

QST Review Jan.'12- Editors Want us to Build!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

IT IS THE TIME TO TRY SOME BUILDING IDEAS TO USE AT JUNE'S FIELD DAY

This is the Annual Do-It-Yourself issue and contains projects you can build this winter and store up for summer fun. Also on page 75 Allen Pitts, W1AGP, has written an interesting article on "The D.I.Y. Magic of Amateur Radio". He claims that hams were the original makers and Hackers, using new, used, and surplus parts to build radio gear and have fun doing it! The same title is used for a "ready for download" HD Video produced by a volunteer group of hams. The details are in the last paragraph of the article.

BE SURE THE XYL IS HAPPY WITH THE MOBILE INSTALLATION IN THE NEW CAR

Sometimes you need to be a little discreet when installing the new mobile. Tom Nolan, W3EX, describes his low-impact installation performed on a 2008 Toyota Highlander Crossover on page 45-47. No chain saw was used, but clever planning was done by including the glove compartment, the between-the-seat front console and the trunk. The antenna (ATAS120) was mounted on the left side of the hatch door. The vehicle is complete with Pennsylvania ham plates.

ANOTHER STEEL TAPE PORTABLE BEAM AVAILABLE FOR WINTER BUILDING

Those "store bought" beams are great, but expensive. John Fortune, W6NBC, has designed a portable 2 meter and 70 cm beam that comes from the hardware store steel tape department. He also uses a dual boom concept to make storage easier. You'll be amazed at his plans on pages 37-39, as well as his detailed elevation plots.

REPORT ON A DXPEDITION TO WW II BATTLE SITE ON TARAWA ISLAND

If you remember Pacific "Island Hopping" history, the name Tarawa will come to mind. It was a memorable event of November 1943 which cost the lives of 1700 Marines. A veteran of five DXpeditions, Bill Vanderheide, N70U, tells the story of the team's battle against unusual tides, and the heavy volume from a dance pavilion near the operating position. Using only two vertical antennas sited on the beach they worked 22,826 contacts in the log on bands from 10 meters through 160. Bill's partner was Bob Norin, W7YAQ. They stayed 12 days to rack up this feat. Look for the story and pictures on pages 70 and 71.

BRUSH UP ON YOUR PHONETICS, OLD MAN—IT IS ALFA, BRAVO, CHARLIE.

A page of Recommended Phonetics is included on page 72 of this month's issue. It comes complete with accent instructions, so get up to date.

HAMFEST WORKERS STILL NEEDED ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 & 22

Our annual hamfest still needs additional help. If you have not signed up or are willing to work additional shifts, please contact Mary KC9IJO.

Sign up sheets will also be available at our club meeting on Friday, January 6. Your participation is needed to help make this a successful event!

Did you receive something nice for Christmas that you would like to show us and or write about? This would be a good space to put your article and pictures.

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY



SCOTT
CAROL

KB9IYY
KB9FYL

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 THIS
MONTH'S HAMLETTER. REMEMBER THAT
ONLY PAID UP MEMBERS MAY VOTE.



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? Yes No

Signature / Date _____

Sponsor's signature / Call (new members only) _____

**ONLY MEMBERS PAYING ON THE
OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP LIST AT THE
TIME OF APPLICATION ARE ELIGIBLE
FOR VOTING.**

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 _____

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 5th: 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.
- 6th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145..31. Program this month is the Hamfest.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for February.
- 26th: 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:

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eMail: donlin67@ameritech.net

First Class Mail