



HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 582 Founded 1948 March 2012



NEWS FROM THE RAB

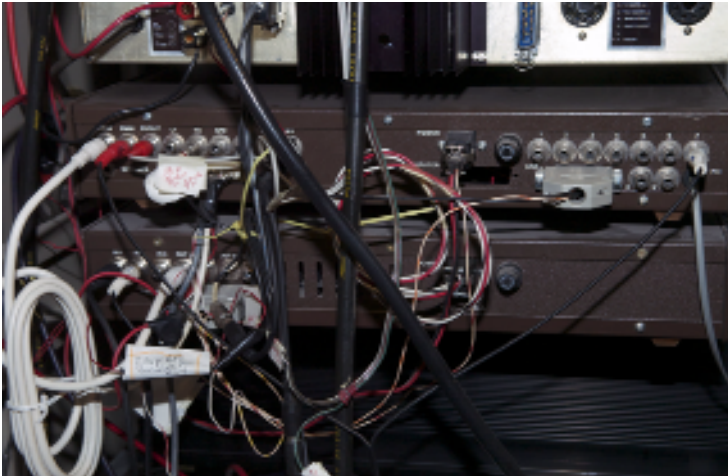


2M Radio Controller on top with DVR on bottom.

Some of the membership has mentioned that they either don't know what the RAB does or do not understand what the club constitution has charged the RAB with accomplishing. With the beginning of this article we will attempt to bring everyone up to date on what has been happening with the Club's repeater systems and why.

Recently the .31 machine has been experiencing a drop off in its transmit volume so that those of you who have attempted to use the 2M system have had to turn your volume way up to hear the QSO you were engaged in. We scheduled a visit to Carol KB9FYL's home to see if we could fix the problem.

Tom, N9CBA and Don, N9NYX, visited the 2M machine on February 17th. Tom did some initial diagnostic tests but was unable to determine what was wrong. These pictures show the back of the cabinet with the Control unit and Digital Voice Recorder and the wiring as it has built up over the many years this 2M system has been used by the club. Since this unit has given many years of faithful service, not many visits are required. So when a maintenance visit is required one of the first things we have to do is reacquaint ourselves with what is what. This can be a daunting process. As these pictures show the control unit has wiring for the
(Continued on page 6)



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

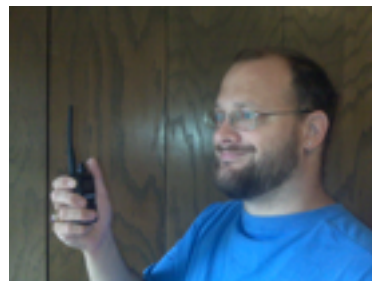
WCRA Repeaters

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

HAMLETTER

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**From the President's
Gavel**

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

There are a scant two months left until I commend the future of this organization to a mostly whole new executive board. In addition to the sunset of my term, Kevin is rounding the final stretch as secretary and Bruce's hard work as Property Custodian. Though he has just begun, it is already time to consider the office of vice president. Please take some time to consider what you want to do for the next two years. For your reference, I am including the officer duties in the following paragraphs.

ARTICLE II OFFICERS:

Election of officers shall take place at the annual meeting each year, by a majority vote of the FULL members present. Officers shall serve for a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected, except that the President, Secretary and Property Custodian elected at the annual meeting in 1999 shall be serve for a term of one (1) year. Each term of office shall begin on May 1 of the year in which elected.

An executive session of the outgoing and incoming Executive Board members shall be held not later than twenty-one (21) days following the annual meeting. Executive Board

This Board shall consist of the five officers of the Club, of which the Club President shall preside as Chairperson. It shall be authorized to suggest policies, new projects, programs, appoint committee chairpersons, and to carry on such business as may be required in the general operation of the Club. Executive Board

meetings will be announced and all FULL members may attend, except during executive sessions.

President - The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club, and conduct them according to the rules adopted. He/she shall enforce due observance of the By-Laws, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents adopted by the Club, appoint committee chairpersons, and perform all other duties pertaining to the office of President. **(Continued on Pg 4)**

**WCRA
Meeting
Minutes**

Kevin, AB9RN
WCRA
Secretary



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
MINUTES of the Regular Club Meeting for February
February 3, 2012
First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis,
Wheaton, IL

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called o order at 1932,
local time by N9OA.

Approval of Agenda

Presiding Officer Approved by unanimous consent.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS

N9OA K9JWG KA0DSF NV9R W9MAC WA9VAA W9DHX K9ILF WA9ACO. N9MWF KC9IJO KA9UJI
KA9RVS W9BK AJ9M KC9PWL WA9FTS N9CBA W9NJM N9DKO KB9RTO WA9SGF N9HDW

Guest. Rob Sampson

Introductions All present introduced themselves and mentioned any impact they had from hamfest
Opening Remarks Any Board Member Steve had several remarks.
Tonight's program Joe , K9JWG
Program Committee Dx contesting webinar will be offered this evening

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Corrections Secretary Peter Richey is not a chair of Scoutorama.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Steve, N9OA
Vice President Joe, K9JWG
Secretary Kevin, AB9RN
Treasurer Ken, N9HQ
• Bank Account balances
Property Custodian Bruce, KA0DSF

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Service Steve, N9OA Scoutorama will be a Communications Drill for Public Service.
Additional details will be offered next month.

CSU John, N9MWF Hamfest prework was completed. Thank you to all for their help.
Minor revisions to storage have been and are being made because we are approaching the weight limit.
Lighter weight materials for front racking are being used in a rebuild. Some radios will be deployable but not
in use for all events such as the 220 all mode. Storage will be accomplished with plastic containers rather than
ATA cases. Items need at 100% of deployment will be kept on board. The rest will be deployed as needed.
Hamfest John, WT9Y The hamfest was financially successful. Our pre-planning dramatically
reduced the cost of snow removal and sanding. Day of ticket sales were down about 10% but we had a strong
advance sale of tickets. The ARRL reported record renewals and new members at our annual hamfest.
Forums were well attended and no one complained about John Faber's parking duty performance.

Thanks to all who participated. Enjoy the worker prize raffle. Mary then conducted the raffle.

Club Awards	John, N9MWF	No report
Field Day	(open position)	
Christmas Party	Dale, NJ9E	
Hamletter	Don, N9NYX	
RAB	Don, N9NYX	
Website	Tom, N9WBW	
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	
Program	Joe, K9JWG	No report
Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	
Membership	Tom, N9WBW	Cba dko. For wb9fub. Motion by N9CBA to accept WB9FUB as a member. Second by N9DKO. Motion carried.
VE Program	Hamfest had less examinees than last year. 11 attendees produced 5 upgrades and 1 new licensee. 2 new licensees at the regular Thursday session for January. (One each technician and general)	

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Scoutorama Steve, N9OA

NEW BUSINESS Joe K9JWG will be running a new rag chew net on Wednesday evenings. Its format will be similar to the lunch bunch on the DARC W9DUP 2 meter repeater system. There will be a question of the day.

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 2025.

/s/ Stephen J Peterson
ARS N9OA
President acting as Secretary Pro Tempore

At the expiration of the term, he/she shall turn over all records and items belonging to the club to the successor.

Vice President - The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the President in his/her absence. In addition, he/she shall make arrangements for the location, refreshments and necessary clean-up pertaining to all club meetings, and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the club President and as otherwise provided in these By-Laws. At the expiration of the term, he/she shall turn over all records and items belonging to the club to the successor

Secretary - The Secretary shall keep a record of the attendance and proceedings of all club meetings, carry on all correspondence, read communications at each meeting, and arrange for written meeting notices to each member. At the expiration of the term, he/she shall turn over all records and items (**Continued on Page 5**)

belonging to the Club to the successor.

Treasurer - The Treasurer shall receive and receipt for all money paid to the Club, keep accurate accounts of all money received and spent, and pay bills with Executive Board approval. At the end of each quarter he/she shall submit an itemized statement of disbursement and receipts. At the end of his/her term he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the Club to his/her successor.

Property Custodian - The duty of the Property Custodian shall be to keep control and cost data, in a bound book provided by the club for that purpose, on all equipment owned by the Club. Such equipment may be loaned to Club members by him/her, but only for stated periods of time. The member borrowing equipment shall sign for it in the record book. Members shall be required to return equipment to the Property Custodian at the time specified, and shall not lend it to other members or non-members. It shall also be the duty of the Property Custodian to keep the equipment in good operating condition, requesting any assistance needed from the Club members, Where amounts greater than the approved budget are required to repair equipment, authorization must be approved by a majority of voting FULL members present at a regular meeting. At the end of his/her term he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the Club to his/her successor.

Please consult with past office holders for further details. I personally have held each of the open offices except for Property Custodian. Kurt, Roberto, and Bob (W9BK) have all recently held that office

73,
Steve

The following are meeting dates for the WCRA club:

Mar 2

Apr 13

May 4

June 2

July 13

Aug Member appreciation dinner

Sep 7

Oct 5

Nov 2

Dec Christmas Party

QST for March- The Antenna Issue is Coming!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

This month's issue will make a colorful red and blue impact in your mailbox. The cover illustration will make you want to read an article about a marvelous 43 foot vertical that covers 160, 80 and 40. The cover of the moisture- proof box is taken off to expose the complex inner workings. It takes several pages and many pictures to explain the story of how it works. The designer and builder is Shef Robotham, whose call is WA1RHT in Burlington, Connecticut. The article appears on pages 33 through 37.

Woodstock Revisited—One Ham's Story

Stan Leondowski, WB2LOF, survived the original Woodstock of August 1969 and felt it would be cool to have a special event station at the 40th anniversary of the cultural event that drew 400,000 people to an upper New York state farm. On page 72, he tells you how he ran a "special event"—and how you can run one too! The advice from Stan: "All you need is something to commemorate."

Pigeon Island in the Solomons—One Man DxPo

Jacek Kabiak, a ham from Poland had a dream to do an expedition to a tiny(football field) island in the South Pacific. His miraculous journey is recorded on "Temotu 2011", pages 90 and 91. This is the same jungle terrain that American soldiers and Marines encountered on their first battles in the Pacific—and the name of another island—Guadalcanal—became famous. Jacek made 5200 QSOs and over 500 on 160 m! His call was SP5DRH/H40/KJ.

ARES Operators Explained

There has been a lot written about ARES and the emergency role of the Ham. Now Rick Palm, K1CE, writes about it on Page 79-80. If you don't know what you should know, you'll want to know about this Em-comm curriculum. Linking the Ham's skills, talents, and desire to help to the government's needs is a complicated task. Rick talks about the training and certification.



NEWS FROM THE RAB (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

DVR, the IRLP connection, and a few other exotic items. After pulling out various inputs and trying to find the fault, Tom decided that he would pull each input out and spray connector cleaner on it and reinsert it into its specific location. For the time being this 'fix' has seem to work. George, KA9HSW, remembered an email thread sometime back discussing a similar problem and Larry's 'fix' at that time was exactly what Tom did this time around.

When a problem does come up it is not like we can now walk to the basement and fix the problem. Larry was a true craftsman in this regard and this is one of the many ways he will be missed. So please bear with the RAB as we check everyone's schedule to determine who is free and when.

Next time we will look at the placement of our systems and discuss club tradition in locating our radios.

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF MARCH



KURT

KB9RTO

BOB

W9BK

MIKE

N9KYG

BRUCE

KA0DSF

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 _____

MARCH 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.
- 2nd: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145..31. Program for March is TBA.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for April.
- 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. Weekly ragchew net on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM 145.31 (-).

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting Mar 2nd, 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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First Class Mail