



# HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
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## FIELD DAY PLANS

Kevin AB9RN will be chairing field day this year which will be held on June 23-24. We will likely be at Panfish park in Glen Ellyn but are considering a few other options which will

be sorted out by the June 1st meeting. I hope that all the club comes out and joins us at whatever participation level ensures an enjoyable event for themselves and others. I hope to make this a very visible event for the public to attend and get to know our club and learn about amateur radio.

In order to get planning and budgets allocated correctly, I ask that you let me know if you believe you will be attending before the June 1st meeting. Contact me at the May meeting or by email. In addition, if you are looking to be a station captain please note that as well with your band and mode preferences. I'm looking to make this a fun event with fewer self-imposed rules,



but do ask that station captains support the following:

- Have their station ready to go by 11:30AM on Saturday
- Make it available for others to participate with and get on the air
- Coordinate band changes for transmitting with other club stations on the designated simplex frequency
- Support the use of network based logging as we have done in the past (via WIFI or other arrangement in advance)

I will help coordinate the schedule for the weekend and seek club members to fill it as necessary. **(Continued on Page 4)**

## ANNOUNCEMENT

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY I am resigning my positions with Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs as: Repeater Administrative Board Chairman, Repeater Administrative Board Member, and Editor of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs HamLetter.

Don Motz, Jr. N9NYX

**WCRA Staff**  
**Elected Officers**

**President** Joseph, K9JWG  
**Vice President** Mary, KC9IJO  
**Secretary** Kevin, AB9RN  
**Treasurer** Ken, N9HQ  
**Custodian** Dale, NJ9E

**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**  
**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  
Photos  
Features Jim, W9DHX

HAMLETTER 24 HOUR FAX  
HAMLETTER eMail address:

# From the President's Gavel

by Joseph, K9KWG WCRA President

Good day Everyone! I am Joseph Grosshauser K9JWG your newly elected President. I am looking forward to serving as your president and welcome any questions, suggestions or criticisms. I have already seen a lot of good ideas flowing. One of my goals is to get more activity in the the club and new members. Please be sure to attend our May 4th meeting as we will be presenting some club awards.

Email. k9jwg@yahoo.com  
Phone # 630-809-6221



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



**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
Agenda for the Regular Club Meeting for April 13, 2012  
First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Called to order 7:30pm

Approval of Agenda

Presiding Officer Approved

**INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND**

**OPENING REMARKS**

Introductions: N9OA, K9JWG, AB9RN, N9HQ, KC9ITO, KC9UKN, N9WBW, KC9KHT, KB9FYL, WA9FTS, N9CBA, K9ILF, WA9ACO, KA9HEL, W9UZ, W9DHX, N9MWF, W9BK, N9HDW, Colin and Mason.

Opening Remarks                      Any Board Member    None

Tonight's program                    No program

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING:**

Corrections                            Secretary                    None

Approval                                Presiding Officer        Motioned carried.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

President                                Steve, N9OA                No update

Vice President                        Joseph, KC9UHE          No update

Secretary                                Kevin, AB9RN              No update

Treasurer                                Ken, N9HQ                 Renewals are needed.

Bank Account balances              Balances were given.

Property Custodian                    Bruce, KA0DSF            No update

**REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB) Report**

Chairman                                Don, N9NYX                No update

Questions                                Members expressed concern that the repeater is still not operational and that professional help be consulted.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Public Service                        Steve, N9OA                April 29th is special Olympics and volunteers are needed.

May 19th is the 3 fires Boy Scout Scout-O-Rama and volunteers are needed to support this event. Get with Steve N9OA to help out. Steve is also looking for 4th of July parade volunteers.

CSU                                        John, N9MWF                Dale gave an update that the HF beam has been reconditioned and ready for action.

Hamfest                                John, WT9Y                The Hamfest chairman position is available, as John is relocating to Charlotte, North Carolina for work. We appreciate his support with the hamfest over the years!

Club Awards                            John, N9MWF                Awards being prepared for next month.

Field Day                                Dale, NJ9E                 The chairman's position is open.

Christmas Party                        Dale, NJ9E                 Dale is looking for a new location.

Hamletter                                Don, N9NYX                No update

Website                                 Tom, N9WBW                Site is updated

Training                                 Charlie, WB9SGD          No update

Program                                 Joe, KC9UHE                no program tonight as Joe is not feeling well

Public Relations                        Mark, W9UZ                No update

Membership                             Tom, N9WBW                8 members remain unpaid for 2012 dues

We also would benefit from having folks support other related types of activities such as:

- Host an information table for visitors
- Help with setup on Saturday morning (or earlier if possible)
- Help with cleanup on Sunday afternoon
- Help with getting food and setting up
- Related field day demonstrations (that get us points!) like ATV, Satellite, etc

Let me know if you're interested?

Thanks and I look forward to seeing everyone there!



# QST for May'12 – Dayton and Field Day Promo

Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **STILL TIME FOR DAYTON?**

May 18,19,20 are the dates, so QST is full of articles and ads about the Hamvention that is unmatched for Ham Celebrities and super-exhibits. If you can't make it, checking through the pages of QST is a good substitute.

**FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN KEVIN, AB9RN**, is looking for you. The date is June 23 and 24 and all the gear you might want to wear is shown on Page 116. Panfish Park, our traditional operating position in Central Glen Ellyn has been requested as the site. Permit approval is expected as we've never had a neighbor complaint!

## **“THREE WATTS IN A COFFEE CAN” MAKES INTERESTING READING**

George Dorner, W9ZS, tells the step-by-step story of his low-power building experience on page 20. He packs a lot of parts in the can for very few dollars. The rig has one vacuum tube and lots of small parts.

## **COVER STORY: USE YOUR SMART PHONE AS A DIGITAL COM. TERMINAL**

Page 30 takes you for a three page ride on creating an AFSK Interface for Android Smart phones. It is written by Martin Huyett, K0BXX of Burlington, Wisconsin. So if you have an Android phone, he has the road map to arriving at an advanced point with a Digital Communications Terminal at your QTH. Circuit and Parts List are included.

## **BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE—“FROM ANALOG TO D-STAR”**

Not satisfied with combining Smart phones and radio, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ tackles the Analog to D-Star transition. Starting with “What is D-Star?” Gary leads you through the process of joining in on D-Star, even though you don't have a D-Star radio! Sounds difficult, but Gary says it can be done. The article starts on Page 36 and has four pages with many pictures. Gary is a frequent QST contributor and video producer from Cary, NC. (He also did the review below)

## **KENWOOD'S NEW TM-281A 2 METER FM TRANSCEIVER REVIEWED BY QST**

Looking for something that kicks out a lot of power on 2 meters and can reach repeaters from a distance with 25 or 65 watts? Read about it on a three page review beginning on page 45. Gary Pearce, KN4AQ gives it high marks, and it is priced well under \$200. Check it out yourself on your visit to Dayton!

# The VEEP's corner

By: Mary Tuohy (KC9IJO)

Allow me to take a few minutes to introduce myself. I am KC9IJO (aka Mary Tuohy) and I've been a member of WCRA since 2005. Perhaps you have seen me out at Public Service events like Special Olympics or remember me calling (o.k. BEGGING) for help for the annual Mid-Winter Hamfest.

I've sat back for many years and let the club go where it may. I realize now that if our club is to make a greater difference in the lives of our members and the community at large I can no longer sit back on the sidelines. I want to help you all to grow not only as Hams but as to grow the club as well.

To this end, look for a survey to come out in next month's Hamletter asking for your opinion on a variety of things. Meanwhile I'll give a sneak peek at one of the questions that will come out. It's really quite simple-What kind of topics do you want me to give a presentation on? Please email me at [m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com) or call me at (630)222-9732 with your suggestions. I might even have a presentation ready for the May meeting on something you suggested to me.

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The following are meeting dates for the WCRA club:

May 4

June 1

July 13

Aug Member appreciation dinner

Sep 7

Oct 5

Nov 2

Dec Christmas Party

# OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF MAY



PETER	N9HDW
TOM	N9WBW
MAC	W9LIW

**Meeting Minutes Continued from Page 3** VE Program No update

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS** A. Status of Sunday Night Net – The net may resume this Sunday (4/15/2012) on the 2 meter repeater.

B. Jim Ward asked if anyone is interested in participating with the citizen's core.

C. September 15th is the radio expo

D. June 13th is a certification class for CPR, cost is \$35.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** A. Property Custodian – one nominee exists which is Dale NJ9E. Dale offered that he would like to catalog equipment with photos. Motion by John and seconded by Peter. The motion carried.

B. Secretary – one nominee exists which is Kevin AB9RN. Motioned by Jim and seconded by Joe. The motion carried.

C. Vice President - one nominee exists which is Marry KC9IJO. Motioned by Tom and seconded by Al. The motion carried.

D. President - one nominee exists which is Joe KC9UHE. Motioned by John and seconded by Mike. The motion carried.

## **ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS**

**ADJOURNMENT** Adjourned at 8:38pm



## MAY 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. Program for March is
- 24th: 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](http://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 May 4th, 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**