



# WCRA HAMLETTER

*June 2012*

## LATE BREAKING NEWS!!!

John Faber (WT9Y) Long time Hamfest chairman and two term Vice President of our club is moving! June 1<sup>st</sup> will be WT9Y's last meeting at our club for awhile (although we'd love for him to come back anytime).

Please come out June 1<sup>st</sup> to First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton at 7:30 to wish him a bon voyage and best of luck in his new home. We're bringing in hors d'oeuvres and other fancy items. John we will miss you very much. Please come and show WT9Y how much we will miss him until he returns.

## **Kevin AB9RN will be chairing field day this year which will be held on June 23-24.**

We will be at Panfish Park in Glen Ellyn. I hope that the entire 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. Members who participate in Field Day will also receive an official "Field Day Hat" this year!



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 by email at [kevinoleniczka@gmail.com](mailto:kevinoleniczka@gmail.com) In addition, if you are looking to be a station captain please note that as well in your email response 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 request that those who wish to be station captains to please call me at (630)933-9884 or email me ([kevinoleniczka@gmail.com](mailto:kevinoleniczka@gmail.com)) before the June meeting. We would like to have captains bring the PC or laptop they plan to use on field day to the meeting to test WIFI connectivity and logging software functionality.**

I will help coordinate the schedule for the weekend and seek club members to fill it as necessary. 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!

**Kevin AB9RN**

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow members and friends:

Field Day is coming! As always, it is the last full weekend in June. Kevin is hard at work planning the event and will cover the particulars in detail at our meeting on June 1. The meeting will be at our usual time and place.

We have a great club! Please pardon my dust and that of the board as we make it even better. These improvements come in the form of new committee chairs and RAB members. Thank you to Mary for taking on this publication. Kurt's service as Hamfest chairman and jumping on the RAB is appreciated. Also thank you to Steve for volunteering to add the RAB to his plate.

We will also be having a party at the June membership meeting for John Faber-WT9Y. He is moving at the end of this month and we will miss him a lot. John, thank you for all of the help you have given to this club over the years. Words aren't enough to express the gratitude I and the club have for all of the hard work you have done for us over the years.

We are an organization that gets its strength from its members. For this reason, I am personally sponsoring an incentive to grow our club. I am going to award a Baofeng UV-5R to the member who recruits the most members to the club. In order to qualify, you must turn in an extra copy of the full member's membership application to me. The prize will be awarded at our annual meeting in April 2013.

I am here as your president to serve your needs of the club. Please feel free to contact me at any time at [\(630\) 809-622](tel:630809622)  
[Email:1k9jwg@yahoo.com](mailto:1k9jwg@yahoo.com)

73,  
Joe, K9JWG  
2012/13 - 2013/14 President

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>- MEMBERSHIP MEETING*

*WT9Y'S FAREWELL PARTY 7:30 P.M. FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WHEATON IL.*

*JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>-SUNDAY NIGHT NET RESUMES!!!*

*JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>-DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER*

*JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>-MONTHLY TESTING-LOMBARD PUBLIC  
LIBRARY*

*JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup>-FIELD DAY-PANFISH PARK*

*JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>- WHEATON'S ANNUAL 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY  
PARADE*

*7:30 A.M. 5/3<sup>RD</sup> BANK WHEATON.*

*JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>-MEMBERSHIP MEETING.*

## THE VEEP CORNER

First of all I want to thank John Faber(WT9Y) for helping me out in a clutch when it came to the May program. He had a great presentation on digital contesting from the Potomac Valley Radio club which I'm sure will come in handy on Field Day-(June 23rd & 24<sup>th</sup>). If you're interested in learning more about digital contesting check out the Potomac Valley website at [www.pvrc.org/webinars](http://www.pvrc.org/webinars). John thank you so much for helping me out and you will surely be missed.

Second, as I said in this month's newsletter I'm including a survey within the newsletter. Please take a minute or two to complete the survey. I really want to hear from you about what you want to see as a member of WCRA (and what you want to eat at the meetings) and return the survey to me at [m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com) or send it to P.O. Box QSL, Wheaton IL. 60187

Lastly, I know this newsletter is filled with article after article about Field Day but let's face it; Field Day is the #1 day we as Hams take pride in. I also want to take a minute to appreciate Kevin Oleniczak (AB9RN) for putting together a brief presentation on everything we need to know for Field Day 2012 for the June membership meeting. Please contact Kevin if you are interested in participating in Field Day. I'm sure he'd appreciate any and all who come.

**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs**

**Minutes for the Regular Club Meeting for**

**May 4, 2012**

**First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL**

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>		
Call	Presiding Officer	7:30
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	Presiding Officer	Approved with a few small modifications
<b>INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS</b>		
Introductions	Entire Assembly	K9JWG, KC9IJO, NJ9E, AB9RN, NE9ET, KA9HEZ, N9MWF, N9OA, WT9Y, W9BK, AJ9M, WA9FTS, N9CBA, W9DHX, N9HDW, KB9RTO, KC9UKN, WA9VAA, W9LIW, N9WBW, W9UZ
Opening Remarks	Any Board Member	
Tonight's program		
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING</b>		
Corrections	Secretary	Joe's older callsign was inadvertently noted
Approval	Presiding Officer	Approval of the amended minutes correcting Joe's newer callsign
<b>OFFICER REPORTS</b>		
President	Joe, K9JWG	No report
Vice President	Mary, KC9IJO	Mary thanks John WT9Y for tonight's program
Secretary	Kevin, AB9RN	No report
Treasurer	Ken, N9HQ	No report

• Bank Account balances	
Property Custodian Dale, NJ9E	Dale is working on a photo inventory of the club equipment and retire some of the older stuff.
Approval of officer reports	Approved
<b>RAB APPOINTMENT CONFIRMATION VOTE</b>	Don has resigned his position as the RAB chairperson. One other open position existed from Larry. Two new appointments were motioned for Kurt KB9RTO and Steve N9OA. Jim W9DHX motioned, seconded by Mark Potter. Motioned carried.
<b>REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB) Report</b>	
A. Chairman	No report
B. Questions	Latest status of the repeater was discussed.
C. Formal Requests for RAB action (Kevin, AB9RN)	<p>A formal request was received and read in the meeting for RAB response:</p> <p>Repair the courtesy beep and CW ID to acceptable levels and provide crisp audio immediately.</p> <p>Obtain a quote for a repeater similar to the 440 along with any additional equipment to utilize that repeater on 145.31 to present at the meeting where the report is given on this request.</p> <p>Obtain a quote for a commercial site of at least 30 mile handheld coverage from the intersection of Main Street and Roosevelt in Wheaton for 145.31 to present at the meeting where the report is given on this request. The quote should include a price for the current equipment and that equipment quoted in the previous item.</p> <p>Place the 145.39 repeater on the air with a coverage within downtown Wheaton or greater by 7/4/12.</p>
<b>STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	
Public Service Steve, N9OA	<p>This past weekend was the Special Olympics and while the event was a success our role was modified the day of which led to some confusion that will be addressed before next year's event.</p> <p>Fourth of July parade is coming up and Steve needs volunteers.</p> <p>DuPage Co. ARES will be providing mutual aid assistance at the</p>

		4 <sup>th</sup> of July parade.
CSU	John, N9MWF	New racking in place. Custom shelves for new all mode transceivers. Updated patch panels using BNC.
Hamfest	(open position)	Looking for a volunteer
Club Awards	John, N9MWF	Coming up at the end of the meeting
Field Day	Kevin, AB9RN	<p>An update was provided as to alternate locations for field day this year. Those contacted were; Fermi lab, DuPage Airport, West Chicago Parks and DuPage Co. Fairgrounds. Of those only the fairgrounds is a viable option in addition to Panfish Park. The decision will be made by the end of May as to which we will use.</p> <p>Kevin motion to enhance the WIFI on the CSU for the purpose of enabling network based logging at field day was made in the amount of \$200. The motion was seconded and passed.</p> <p>Kevin motioned for a budget of \$1300 for field day this year to cover potential rental costs, food, generator gas, etc. The motion was seconded and carried.</p>
Christmas Party	Dale, NJ9E	It's in December and let Dale know what restaurant to try
<u>Hamletter</u>	Mary (KC9IJO)	Don has resigned his role as newsletter chairperson. Mary is eager to lead the continuation of the newsletter.
Website	Tom, N9WBW	No report
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	Quick show of hands for those that would want to help lead a class in the future. 5 attendees indicating interest.
Program	Mary, KC9IJO	Field day plans will be discussed at next month's meeting
Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	No report
Membership	Tom, N9WBW	No report
VE Program	George, NE9ET	No session this past month. May 24 <sup>th</sup> is the next session.
Approval of committee reports		Approved
<b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>		
A. Sunday night net		Remains postponed until the repeater is fully restored
B. Rag chew net		Remains postponed until the repeater is fully restored
C. Missing Hardline		The RAB has been formally requested to seek a quote for the coax that was stolen from the COD site. Present the quote to COD and seek reimbursement from their insurance company.
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>		

<p>A. Presentation of Awards (Joseph,K9JWG / Steve,N9OA)</p>	<p>Joe was presented a certificate of appreciation for his service as interim vice president.</p> <p>Bruce was presented a certificate of appreciation for his service as property custodian.</p> <p>A club service award was presented to Steve for his leadership as president.</p> <p>Mark Potter acknowledged John Faber's extensive support with the club. A motion was made for the club to host a celebratory dinner in honor of John's contributions. It was seconded by Steve. We're excited and looking forward to celebrating with John in early June.</p> <p>A motion was made to give John Faber a life membership by Kurt and seconded by Dale. The motion carried.</p>
<p><b>ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS</b></p>	<p>Scoutorama is coming up on 5/19 and volunteers are needed.</p>
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p>	<p>8:26pm</p>



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RETIRING OFFICERS-**

**Joe Grosshauser-K9JWG-2012 VP**

**Bruce Dillingham-KA0DSF-2010-2012 Property Custodian**

**Steve Peterson-N9OA-2010-2012 President**

# **QST UPDATE**

**By: Jim Ward**

## **QST IS ITS OWN COVER STORY!**

Pictured on this month's cover is a laptop screen loaded with the printed issue's headlines. When you reach page 13 you'll read the Publisher's story of the two years of preparations. The details of how it will be phased in can be found further in on page 74.

QST Management views the "on line" digital edition as one of two new benefits of ARRL membership. The other benefit is a member's ability to access archived issues of QST from December 1915 to the present.

## **OPTING OUT OF THE PRINT ISSUE**

ARRL members can choose to opt out of the mailed, print edition of QST at any time by completing the on line "opt out" form. It takes a while, so you could receive at least one "unwanted" printed issue. Choosing to opt out of the print issue is voluntary and will not result in a refund or reduction in ARRL membership dues. Any savings by not sending the print issue will be used to extend the League's public service activities. It will be interesting to see the statistics on: (1) Number of new memberships resulting from the Digital edition. (2) Number of opt out requests. (3) Number of hits on the Digital Edition.

## **FIELD DAY IDEAS – TRY 50 Mhz plus**

Sean Kutzko, KX9X, contributed a timely article this month on Field Day. A rule change last year allows any class A or F station a "free" VHF station—one that does not change their transmitter count([www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day)). He wants you to take advantage of a high hill and a temporary mast, such as a painter's pole. The photo on page 70 shows you just how to do it.

## **MORE "EASY TO SET UP" ANTENNA IDEAS**

Hints and Kinks Editor Steve Sant Andreas, AG1YK, presents his antenna idea using a space blanket. They are composed of a metal surface on a flexible Mylar base. It folds up and can fit in your shirt pocket. The photo on page 63 shows a mobile antenna sitting in the middle of a blanket. Just the way to reach those 50 plus stations Sean is talking about. Good luck!



## Dear Aunt Tenna

Dear Aunt Tenna,

I'm planning to start a mail order business to sell ham radio parts. Do you think advertising in the newsletters of local ham radio clubs will bring quick results?

**Signed, Aspiring Entrepreneur**

Dear Aspiring,

Absolutely. I once ran an ad saying the watchdog that guarded my tent on Field Day weekend was missing and offered a reward for his safe return. I didn't get the dog back, but the same night two radios were stolen from my tent.

## WCRA IN THE COMMUNITY

The Communication's Support Unit (CSU) was out at Cantigny Park in Wheaton IL May 19<sup>th</sup>, to help promote Amateur Radio Communications to the Boy Scouts of America. The CSU was part of the larger Three Fires Council Scout-O-Rama event where various Boy and Cub Scouts of America activities were promoted.



Kevin (AB9RN) Demonstrates Digital Radio

While Dale (Nj9E), Hal(AC3Q), and newest Ham Pat (KC9EXO), encouraged Scouts to reach out to Hams all across the world at the CSU in classic Ham style, Kevin(AB9RN) promoted the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Ham via Digital Radio and George (KA3HSW) connected the scouts to satellite Hams across the country and the world.



Dale Kwarta(NJ9E), Pat Dennin (KB9EXO) and Hall Dennin (AC3Q) smile for the camera

Our participation in the event was organized by Steve(N9OA) who himself is an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. Mark (W9UZ) was nice enough to pull the CSU to and from the event before returning the trailer to its' usual resting place.

## WCRA Survey Questions

1. I have attended the monthly meeting-

Every Month (If you check this box please see question 1a)     Once every three to four months  
 Once every five or six months     Once a year     Never (If you check this box please see question 1b)

1a. What I like best about the membership meeting is-

Meeting and maintaining friendships within the club

Learning about what's new in amateur radio

Getting advice on how to be a better ham

Updates on what is happening within the club

Asking fellow hams for advice about the hobby

Other(Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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1b. The reason I do not attend the monthly meetings is

Bad day of the week/month     Do not like monthly presentation topics

Do not like refreshments     Do not like location

Do not like Board of Directors/Other members of WCRA

Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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2. I have participated in the following club events or activities

Hamfest     Special Olympics     Field Day     Wheaton 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

Club Picnic     Boy/Girl Scout events     Christmas Dinner

I do not participate in club activities (If you check this box please explain why) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. The areas of Amateur Radio I would like to learn more about are-(Please rank each response on a scale of 0-5)

\_\_\_\_\_Advice from an experienced elmer

\_\_\_\_\_Current or up and coming radio technology (I.E. DSTAR, internet assisted Ham operations)

\_\_\_\_\_Practical applications of Ham equipment and technology (Example-Weather Spotting)

\_\_\_\_\_Emergency Ham preparedness/Emergency Ham protocols

\_\_\_\_\_General rules and guidelines for amateur radio

\_\_\_\_\_Types of radio activities available to the typical Ham.

\_\_\_\_\_Other\_\_\_\_\_

4. If you are interested in coming out to our meetings could you please select the type of beverages you would like to see at our meeting- (Maximum of 3 choices)

\_\_\_Coke \_\_\_Pepsi \_\_\_Diet Coke \_\_\_Diet Pepsi \_\_\_Sprite \_\_\_Sprite Zero \_\_\_7up

\_\_\_Diet 7up \_\_\_Flavored pop (Cherry, Root Beer etc). \_\_\_Fruit Punch/Fruit drinks \_\_\_Water

\_\_\_Coffee/Tea/Ice Tea/Iced Coffee \_\_\_Other\_\_\_\_\_ (Please note, alcoholic beverages are not allowed at our meeting location)

5. If you are interested in coming out to our meetings could you please select the type of snacks you would like to see at our meeting (Please select only one)

\_\_\_Cookies \_\_\_Chips & dips \_\_\_Vegetables \_\_\_Snack cakes \_\_\_Crackers & Cheese

\_\_\_Candy \_\_\_Other\_\_\_\_\_

6. As to our current meeting location I find it –

\_\_\_Highly favorable \_\_\_Somewhat favorable \_\_\_Alright \_\_\_Somewhat unfavorable \_\_\_Totally unfavorable \_\_\_No Opinion

6a. Please explain your answer to Question #6

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. The club's top priority for 2012 should be

- Repeater and Repeater maintenance       Community Activities(IE Special Olympics etc)  
 Coordinating and training the next generations of Hams       Increasing Club Membership  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

8. I expect the WCRA board of directors to-

- Maintain club equipment and provide it when necessary to members  
 Educate the membership about radio equipment and advice all members on how to be a successful amateur radio operator  
 Inform the membership about upcoming events/projects where I could be of help  
 Expand the club and Amateur Radio in general through training and education  
 Come up with new or improve fundraising activities  
 All of the above  
 Other(Please explain)
- 

9. I wish to help the club out with the following projects-

- Monthly meetings (I.E. present a Ham related topic at our monthly meetings)  
 Community Projects       Maintaining and upgrading club equipment  
 Hamfest       Field Day       Repeater/Weekly Nets  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

I do not wish to help the club out at this time. (If you check this one, please explain why)

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10. When it comes to our club and the activities we do I feel \_\_\_\_\_inviting a friend or non club member ham out to our events (Please fill in blank with the following choices)

- Very Comfortable     Somewhat Comfortable     Somewhat Uncomfortable  
 Very Uncomfortable     No Opinion

11. Any further comments/questions

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**Please email this survey back [to-m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:to-m2e1990@gmail.com) Or send to**

**WCRA**

**P.O. Box QSL**

**Wheaton, IL. 60187**

**Your answers to the survey questions will be kept confidential. Anonymity is assured.**

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION-



Museum Ships on the Air 2009: USS Alabama

Museum Ships Weekend 2012 – June 2 2012 0000Z – June 3 2012 2359Z . Activating IOTA NA-143 (Pelican Is.) Brazos Valley ARC will be operating from radio rooms of WWII Submarine USS Cavalla and Destroyer Escort USS Stewart from Seawolf Park on Pelican Is. in Galveston, Texas. We will be operating on 10-40 meters (SSB and CW). Be a part of living history as we commemorate the actions of these ships and crews. More information

at <http://www.bvarc.org/index.php?page=ms> Special Event QSL with SASE via KK5W ([QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com)).

### WCRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS-

PRESIDENT-Joe Grosshauser-K9JWG-Email [KC9UHE@Yahoo.com](mailto:KC9UHE@Yahoo.com)

VICE PRESIDENT-Mary Tuohy-KC9IJO-Email: [m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com)

SECRETARY-Kevin Oleinczak-AB9RN-Email: [kevinoleinczak@gmail.com](mailto:kevinoleinczak@gmail.com)

TREASURER-Ken Kwasniewski-N9HQ

PROPERTY CUSTODIAN-Dale Kwarta-NJ9E

### THE SUNDAY NIGHT NETS ARE BACK!

Starting June 3rd!

#### **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