



Hamletter

August 2012
Issue 587



CSU HIT A DX CLUB

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**NO MEETING THIS
MONTH**

**Sunday Night Nets
Resume**

**NEXT MEETING
SEPT. 7TH AT 7:30
P.M.**

**CLUB PICNIC @
HERRICK LAKE
SEPT. 15TH
4 P.M.-8 P.M.**

By: Mark Potter (W9UZ)

While WCRA was meeting on July 13th, John Cheney, N9MWF, was giving a talk to the Northern Illinois DX Association at the home of Mark Potter (W9UZ). The DX club of Northern Illinois is devoted to chasing DX wherever it may be and Potter is a member of that group.

Cheney first talked to the group about the club's Communications Service Unit (CSU) which was parked nearby so DX members and guests could walk through it. The second half of the DX meeting was devoted to ITECS (Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications System).

There are nine of these communications trailers in the state of Illinois, valued at \$500,000 each. The DuPage County Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Homeland Security each has one of these communication trailers. All nine were built by DuPage County OEM personnel. Cheney (N9MWF) and Joe LeFabre (N9WRO) plus a few other personnel built ALL nine of these trailers over a period of two years. This is truly an amazing feat!

The ITECS are deployed when a community is stricken by some disaster and communications are out. Cheney (N9MWF) has spent more than thirty years in voluntary emergency management at various agencies.

Statement from the President

This statement was read aloud at the July Meeting.

By Joe Grosshauser-K9JWG

It is not a mystery that the last two meetings have not run smoothly. A meeting for an organization that has chosen in its bylaws to follow Robert's Rules of Order as its parliamentary authority should run a lot more smoothly. While it is not necessary for a small organization like ours to follow all of the provisions of Robert's Rules, there are two provisions that will be strictly enforced for the balance of my presidential term. First, all members will treat other members with courtesy and respect. Members absolutely will conduct themselves with a professional level of decorum fitting of a business meeting of a corporation. Our last meeting heard a point about losing members and perspective members regarding this point. Second, only one person will speak at a time and speaking without being recognized will be met with liberal use of the gavel. Anyone who has a problem with these rules is welcome to discuss the matter with my successor.

Speaking of rules, the following of bylaws has recently been called into question. I assure you that every letter of them has been followed. The first of these is regarding the membership status of three members who are long time dedicated members who have each served as officers of the club. In this case, the executive board met at a required executive session of the incoming and outgoing executive boards and discussed the matter of their non-renewal. Since this meeting on April 19 was a fully qualified executive board meeting, my predecessor's executive board voted to defer the dropping of these members' membership for non-payment of dues until April 30. This action is covered in the bylaws and is within the rights of the executive board. No individual, regardless of position in the club, has the authority to question the executive board on this matter. Furthermore the members in question had already sent a check dated for the day following the April club meeting at the moment the decision has been made. It has been stated on a recent roster that a vote needs to happen. No such vote will be taken because they are members in full good standing, nor will I tolerate any further question or comment on the subject. The second is regarding the recent RAB appointments. No one disputes that the bylaws were followed, but it was said that it was wrong due to not being done as it was in the past. This will be the last time I give any consideration to the past. Going forward, only the bylaws and documents referenced in the bylaws will be considered for governance of the club.

The last point I want to make is that there is a monthly meeting for the purpose of handling the club's legitimate and official business. Any personal opinions or problems should be discussed "off line". I have a strict "open door" policy and am always available for this purpose. Unfortunately, my personal commitments and full-time employment are occasionally prohibitive of a quick response to e-mails and phone messages. Be assured, your message was received and your comment and/or suggestion will receive my full attention at my first opportunity. Please refrain from sending successive e-mails as the frequency will not succeed in accelerating a response.

73,
Joseph, K9JWG
President (2012/13 - 2013/14)

THE VEEP CORNER**By: Mary Tuohy KC9IJO**

Once again I have to give a big shout out to Andy Bauman KC9BAP for his presentation on mobile ham operations. I'm just sad that it was dark by the time many club members got a chance to see his wonderful van. I was so jealous of all of the antennas that he had on the roof.

And due to poor planning on my part I'm afraid I had to move the club picnic from my original location to its new location. It will be held at Herrick Lake off of Butterfield Rd on Sept. 15th from 4 p.m. until dusk. The club will provide a main dish and everyone else will bring a side dish or desert. See my article in the newsletter for more details. And yes spouses, significant others and kids are welcome. My only request is that you RSVP to me by Sept 7th. So I can make sure there is enough of the main dish and beverages to go around. My email is m2e1990@gmail.com

I'm also a little disappointed that I did not receive more surveys from the membership. I take full blame for this one. Perhaps the form I used may not have been the best. Hopefully by the time you've received this newsletter you'll have seen my urgent email begging for a response. The new deadline is Sept 1st which coincidentally is the same date as the deadline for RAB names submission. I'll print the results in the October Hamletter although I am already tabulating and implementing the results as I type.

I'm also looking ahead toward September. I know I've received a few suggestions and I'm working on brining an important guest out to our meeting. I'm keeping details hushed until I can confirm.

WANTED: CLUB MEMBERS FOR THE REPEATER ADMINISTRATION BOARD

The WCRA Board of Directors is looking for two members of the club to serve out the terms of two vacancies on the RAB. The RAB meets once every three to four months and is responsible for maintenance of the club repeater, establishing rules for the repeater use and acting as control operator for the repeater. If you are interested in getting more involved with the operation and management of our repeater please contact k9jwg@yahoo.com by September 1st, 2012. Once we have your name we will contact you and interview you about your interest in the RAB and the qualities we are looking for in a member of the RAB. If you have any additional questions about what the RAB does contact one of the members of the board of directors.

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Minutes for the Regular Club Meeting for July
July 13th, 2012

First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton IL.

CALL TO ORDER-At 7:42 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA-1st by W9LIW, 2nd by KA3HSW, Addition of agenda item- Resignations/Appointments. Approved

INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS-

Introductions-K9JWG, KC9IJO, N9JE, W9DHX, WA9VAA, W9LIW, NV9R, KB9FYL, KA3HSW, N9CBA, KC9BKP, N9OA, W9BK

Opening remarks-

President Opening Remarks-

President read a statement aloud which will be published in the Hamletter. The president commented about the previous two month's meetings and emphasized that all club members would treat fellow club members with courtesy and respect and will conduct themselves in a professional manner during the meeting. The president also addressed a by-law issue which had come up recently. The president also emphasized his "Open Door" policy and only legitimate and official club business should be discussed during the monthly membership meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTUES FROM LAST MEETING- 1st- N9OA, 2nd KB9FYL-There were corrections to the June minutes-Specifically making sure they were stated for the month of June not November. Approved.

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS- N9OA and KB9RTO have resigned from the RAB.

OFFICER REPORTS-

President-K9JWG- Noting to add from previous statement.

Vice President KC9IJO-Vice President made a motion to appropriate \$200 to be used to purchase an entrée and some pop for the club's picnic in August. 1st by Nj9E, 2nd W9DHX. Discussion ensued about picnic details. Vice President then said it would be held at a members' house and to look for the details in the upcoming Hamletter. Approved.

Secretary AB9RN-No report/not in attendance,

Treasurer – N9HQ- No report/not in attendance-Bank Account Balances-not presented at meeting

Property Custodian- NJ9E-In the process of inventorying club property.

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB) REPORT-

The repeater suffered damage during the last storm. KB9FYL said that someone would be coming out to inspect the damage and give an estimate on repair costs. KB9FYL would be coming back to the club looking for help with repair expenses.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS-

President said that all of the reports would be given and club members should refrain from asking questions until the end of all reports.

Public Service-N9OA-The 4th of July parade was canceled due to storm. There is a rumor that the parade has been rescheduled for Labor Day but no one on the parade commission has contacted N9OA about rescheduling. President asked N9OA to look into the rescheduling.

CSU-N9MWF-CSU at DX club meeting

Hamfest-KB9RTO-No Report

Club Awards-N9MWF-No Report

Field Day-AB9RN-Was held June 23rd-June 24th. Many club members participated.

Christmas Party-NJ9E-Letting us know about places where Christmas party could be held.

Hamletter-KC9IJO-Deadline July 20th

Website-N9WBW-No report

Training-WB9SGD- No Report

Program-KC9IJO-Andy Bauman-KC9BKP would be giving a presentation on mobile radio antennas.

Public Relations-W9UZ-No Report

Membership-N9WBW-No Report

vE Program-NE9ET-No Report

Committee Reports Discussion-There were some questions. Reports Approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

A. Sunday Night Nets-President is still looking for Net Control Operators for Sunday Night Net.

NEW BUSINESS-

A. Membership Appreciation dinner for August-Vice President mentioned dinner in her report.

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS-

NV9R referenced previous month's discussion about the Repeater and the expense to KB9FYL's electric bill. He suggested perhaps the club should give something to help alleviate the costs of KB9FYL's electric bill. KB9FYL said she was o.k. with the electric bill but would like for the club to pay for the repairs to repeater.

ADJOURNMENT- 1st N9OA, 2nd KB9FYL, Approved. Adjournment at 8:12 p.m.

* Refreshments and meeting program followed the business meeting. *



KC9BKP Andy Bauman shows some of the tools he uses to install radios into police and fire department vehicles throughout the Chicagoland Area.

ANNOUNCING-THE CLUB PICNIC!!!!!!!!!!

WHO: For members of the club and their families.

WHAT: Club appreciation picnic.

WHERE-Herrick Lake, The South Pavilion The pavilion is located off of the intersection of Herrick and Weisbrook Rd.

WHEN- Saturday, September 15th from 3:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

The club will be providing the main course, however we are asking everyone to bring a fully prepared side dish to share. We are asking you bring your side dish along the following guidelines-

If your call sign begins with an **A** or a **W**, please bring an appetizer or salty snack of some kind.

If your call sign begins with a **K**-Please bring a salad of some kind. (Potato, Veggie, Macaroni, etc)

If your call sign begins with an **N**-Please bring a desert of some kind.

Space is limited-So please RSVP by Sept 7th to KC9IJO-Mary Tuohy Phone # (630)222-9732 <mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com>

Ask Ann Ode

Dear Aunt Tenna has moved onto other larger publications. We now present Ann Ode who would be happy to answer your technical radio questions.

Dear Ann Ode,

On the way to a Hamfest, I dropped-off my XYL at the racetrack for the first time. She won four races. Not bad, eh?

*Signed,
Proud OM*

Dear Proud,

Not bad is right! I get winded just jogging around the block.

QST REVIEW

By: Jim Ward W9DHX

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100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAM RADIO LICENSING-AUGUST 17TH, 2012

Would you believe it-there were 450 “Amateur wireless” stations back in 1911. With no rules in place, the airwaves were a lawless wasteland. No call signs assigned and no power limits! How the Titanic Disaster and the quick thinking wireless operators who helped saved 712 lives played a role in licensing makes a great story on pages 68 and 69. The Radio Act of 1912 began a new era for the Amateur radio operators of that day.

LONG HAUL HAM RADIO-A SPECIAL KIND OF MOBILE

So you thought 18 wheelers used the CB band only. Wrong!

You’ll find a ham licensee in many of those shiny long distance haulers that roll down the highway. Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, tells of his experiences working over-the-road truckers, USA and beyond. Good photos too of the well fitted cab setup, with the little radio rigs set up for comfort in the big rig. Our repeater is host to some truckers who enjoy breaking up their local stops with a QSO as they roll along. See the article on Page 89/90

RETHINKING ELECTRICAL POWER FOR THE HAM

Did you ever think of towing your electric power supply behind your car? WB4APR did, and made it happen. The photo of his car-trailer combination is on page 41, and the author of the article is Bob Bruninga, the Director of the U.S. Naval Academy Satellite Lab. He wants you to expand your thinking about electric power in your home and car. He’s done it as his Maryland estate, and his Prius vehicle. Will it work for you? Read and find out.

PLANNING TO GET ANOTHER RADIO? HERE’S ONE TO CONSIDER

The ICOM ID-31 A is reviewed by QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and he claims it “packs a 5 W punch” on 440 *and* is an analog FM and D-STAR digital transceiver. Steve rates it highly and calls it “a very flexible and useful package. It is small-eight ounces and 4 inches high, not counting the antenna. The photos and the article appear on pages 51-53. The price? Around \$380.

DX FROM “DOWN UNDER” IS NOT AN EASY TASK-IT IS SO FAR AWAY!

Ernie Wells, VK3FM, gives us eight reasons why it is so difficult to get any DX if you live in Australia or New Zealand. It shows pictures of some of the popular hams who have overcome all the difficulties and rank high in the number of countries reached in spite of the long distances. You’ll find the article on page 90.

NEXT ISSUE-HAMFEST DETAILS

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Vice President-Mary Tuohy KC9IJO

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About WCRA

The mission of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs is to promote the art of radio communications and electronics. The club does this by mentoring and educating members as well

as the general public about amateur radio, participating in community events, preparing for and assisting with local authorities in the event of a disaster when other communications

modes fail, all while promoting a social camaraderie among it's members.

