



Hamletter

October 2012
Issue 589



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 5TH-

WCRA Meeting

October 7th-

Chicago Marathon,

Sunday Night Nets
Resume

October 21st & 22nd

JOTA

October 18th

Deadlilne,
Hamletter

November 2nd,
Club Meeting

WCRA ROCKS LABOR DAY PARADE

On Labor Day the Wheaton 4th of July parade finally went off down main street. Several members of the club as well as several members of DuPage AERES participated in the parade by providing communications along the route. The parade was originally scheduled for July 4th however Mayor Michael Gresk cancelled the parade as well as several other 4th of July related activities in order to redirect city resources towards clean-up efforts after a massive storm hit the city on July 1st of this year.



N9OA explains to members of DuPage ARES where to go.



NJ9E watches the parade at the start.

First of all, I'm really excited about having Jim Oconnell (W9WU) come out to our October membership meeting. Please be sure to bring him out and give him a warm welcome. I hope that his speaking about the new Ham law here in Illinois is exciting you as much as it is exciting me. And I'm also hoping that Jim's appearance will be the start of a new revival for our membership meetings.

I've tallied the results from the membership survey that I sent out months ago. (See full results in the Hamletter) First of all I have to confess that by statistical standards the survey is very unscientific because only 13 people out of a club of 80 members responded to the survey by the deadline although slightly over 16% of the club responding is a pretty hefty response. I know that I had a major flaw on Q3 where I asked you to rate on a scale of 0-5 the areas of amateur radio you would like to learn more about without explaining what 0 meant (not interested at all) or 5 meant (Highly interested in learning). So when I added all the numbers up I think I came up with an accurate total of what the priority should be. (Practical applications of new ham equipment (I.E. weather spotting) is what came up to the top answer). However since I botched that question I can't be too sure about the results.

What I am sure about is that I know I've got to present better topics during our monthly meetings among other things. I take to heart the feedback I have received from you and I know that I and the rest of the board have to do a better job communicating with you, the membership as to what is going on and what we as a club are doing.

Speaking of planning ahead, I'm looking forward to the Christmas party in December and Hamfest in January. I'm glad that most of you feel that Hamfest is important by citing your eagerness to help out. If you're interested in helping out Kurt and this year's Hamfest contact him at kb9rto@yahoo.com

Finally a word about the presidency, yes the board and I are still interested in someone stepping up to replace Joe. Yes if you are interested please contact me at the aforementioned m2e1990@gmail.com or call me.

I'll see you on Oct 5th

Mary Tuohy
KC9IJO

WE NEED A CLUB PRESIDENT!!!!

The board of directors is seeking a volunteer to serve out the remainder of former president's term until the April elections in 2013. If you are interested please contact Vice President Mary (KC9IJO) at m2e1990@gmail.com or call her at (630)222-9732 by October 5th, 2012.

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs Minutes from the Regular Club Meeting for September September 7th , 2012

First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by presiding officer Mary KC9IJO

Appointment of Secretary Pro Tempore Mary KC9IJO appointed John N9MWF as Secretary Pro Tem due to the absence of Kevin AB9RN due to a death in the family. A condolence card is on the front table for Kevin and his family.

Approval of Agenda A motion to accept the agenda was made by Rich N9DKO and seconded by Jim W9DHX. Motioned passed on a voice vote without dissent.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS In attendance were NJ9E, KC9KHT, N9WBW, KA0DSF, KA9RVS, WA9VAA, W9DHX, N9HQ, WA9FTS, AJ9M, W9BK, N9DKO, WB9SGD, WA9SGF, KA3HSW, KB9FYL, N9HDW, N9MWF, KC9IJO.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING A motion to accept the minutes of July 13 2012 made by Rich N9DKO and seconded by Carol KB9FYL. Passed on a voice vote without dissent.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Due to personal commitments, Joe K9JWG, has submitted his resignation as president. Mary KC9IJO requested a motion to accept the resignation. Motion made by Tom N9WBW Second by Jim W9DHX. Motion passed.

OFFICER REPORTS

Vice president Mary KC9IJO advised the program for the evening would be Technical Show and Tell and any members who wished to were invited to present.

Treasurer Ken N9HQ provided the current bank balances, and advised that Dale would be providing a listing of club equipment with values.

Property Custodian Dale NJ9E advised that the ICOM 735 from the Drake Estate has been repaired and he recommends the organization which performed the repair to anyone who needs repairs.

A motion to accept officer reports was made by Peter N9HDW and seconded by Mike WA9FTS

RAB APPOINTMENT CONFIRMATION VOTE The vote for the confirmation of appointments to the RAB was tabled until next month so that RAB input can be provided.

RAB George KA3HSW reported for the RAB that the 2 Meter repeater had incurred damage due to a close lightning discharge. Repairs have been made and the repeater will be returned to operation this weekend.

The current list of candidates for RAB membership include Carol KB9FYL, Tom N9WBW and Charlie WB9SGD.

A motion to accept the RAB report was made by Bob W9BK and seconded by Rich N9DKO. Motioned passed.

Standing Committee reports

Public Service, Steve N9OA was not present but a report and pictures from the Wheaton Parade were presented. Also, any members of the club participating with the club for the Chicago Marathon were asked to contact John N9MWF to coordinate the event.

CSU John N9MWF reported that there was minor damage to the leveling jacks on the CSU due to low clearance. The committee is reviewing alternative jack configurations along with costs for a recommendation at a future meeting. Other than that, the CSU performed very well for the parade and is being prepped to the Marathon, including updates to VHF and UHF radio channel programming.

Hamfest. Peter N9HDW reported for Kurt that plans are moving forward for the Hamfest. The fest will be January 19th for setup and the show on January 20th. Kurt is also looking for additional members to assist with the event and also is seeking a location where committee meetings can take place.

Club Awards No Report

Field Day No Report

Christmas Party, Ruth is seeking suggestions, anyone with an idea, please contact Ruth

Web site. Tom N9WBW reports it is up and functional

Training. No Report.

Hamletter. Mary KC9IJO is looking for an assistant editor or someone to take over the Hamletter responsibilities entirely. Anyone interested, please contact Mary

Program, Mary KC9IJO repeated the topic of Radio Problem Show and Tell.

Publicity. No Report

Membership. No Report

VE Program. No Report

A motion to accept committee reports was made by Mike WA9FTS and seconded by George KA3HSW. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Old Business

5

The Sunday Night Net is resuming. Mary KC9IJO thanked Peter N9HDW for being the Net Control for this week. Additional Net Control Operators are also being sought.

The club picnic will be September 15th at Herrick Lake South pavilion. Deadline for signup is tonight so that adequate food can be ordered. Members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert according to Call Sign.

New Business

JOTA. Peter N9HDW announced that a Cub Scout Pack is seeking a Ham to open their Ham Shack for the Jamboree on the Air on October 19-20. Anyone interested can contact Peter N9HDW

Tom N9WBW requested that club members review the portions of the club By Laws relating to their area of interest, in the hopes of drafting proposed enhancements to the By Laws. Once suggested changes have been solicited section by section a committee could be assembled to develop a proposal.

Announcement

The board is soliciting suggestions for an Interim President. Any one interested is asked to let members of the board know prior to the October 5th meeting. This is similar to the procedure they are using for the RAB appointments.

Adjournment MaryKC9IJO entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 So moved by Mike WA9FTS , seconded by Rich N9DKO.

**** Refreshments and meeting program will follow the business meeting. ****



John, N9MWF, Shows off his OEM Manual with notes on what radio frequencies Amateur radio operators would use in case of a disaster.

ASK ANN ODE,

Dear Ann:

As everyone in the club knows, I eat, sleep, live and breathe ham radio.

I especially like to participate in disaster drill nets.

Please use your psychic powers to tell me if ham radio exists in the here-after.

Signed, Die Hard Operator

Dear Operator:

Well, I have good news and bad news for you. The good news is yes, ham radio does exist in the here-after.

The bad news is that you are scheduled to be net control next Monday.

EDITOR'S NOTE-PS I'm still looking for Net Control operators for the Sunday Night Nets, if interested, please let me know-m2e1990@gmail.com

HAMFEST 2013

By Kurt Rubin, KB9RTO

Ok here we go...

The flyers are out the tickets are in so let's get the WCRA Hamfest into a SPIN!!!

I hope everyone is getting ready for the cold weather and getting your antenna farms in order. Anyway the Hamfest is in the scope of things...Word from Jim Ward(W9DHX) is he is going to be helping with the club table and Stage. So if you're trying to get a head start on spring cleaning, our Hamfest on Jan 20th would be a great time to put out that old ham shack stuff and make some green. See Jim on the air or at a meeting about that. The Hamfest forums are once again being headed up by Peter Richey (N9DHX) so if there is something you would like to learn about or if you want to see talked about, see Peter.

As I said in my header the Hamfest tickets are in. Get a hold of Rich Bauer (N9DKO) and please take some tickets. Get the word out on Email groups, Facebook, Twitter, Trade Schools, etc. It's Not my Hamfest it's WCRA'S!! Rattle some cages and see if you can stir up some door prizes. See if you can fill a shift or two. We have Radio Spots and Non-Radio spots so if you don't have a HT, we have a job for you.

73

KB9RTO. Email-kb9rto@yahoo.com

QST REVIEW

7

By: Jim Ward W9DHX

IT'S DXPEDITION TIME- A SPECIAL ISSUE TO CELEBRATE THE DX ADVENTURE:

If you have ever dreamed about going to distant places on a DXpedition---this is the QST you want to read. Four outstanding adventures-including the Hallicrafters 1947 "Mountain of the Moon" African trek are featured. Others are Malpelo, Rotuma and Navassa. The cover story shows four DXers at the Malpelo location with a pair of exotic birds perched on a coral reef nearby. The island is 235 miles off the coast of Columbia and is the 12th most wanted DXCC entity.

SHOPPING FOR A TWO-METER HANDHELD? TWO PRODUCT REVIEWS ARE AVAILABLE.

ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM, takes a look at the Alinco DJ-V57T handheld dual band receiver this month. He says the rig "Offers a nice selection of basic features and good transmit and receive performance at a reasonable price." Contributing Editor Rick Palm, K1CE checked out the Kenwood TH-K20A handheld two meter FM transceiver saying that I "Is solidly built and easy to operate; it has a long battery life and great receiver performance." The reviews start on pages 50 and 53 and are well illustrated. The Alinco model has a video review in the electronic version of QST.

"THOSE MYSTERIOUS SIGNALS " EXPLAINED---IT IS COSMIC NOISE.

Arch Doty, W7ACD knows there is more to cosmic and atmospheric noise that meets the ear. In his article on page 37 he explains that while these signals may just sound like noise to us, they mean a lot more to radio astronomers. Cosmic noise is broadband electromagnetic radiation studied by scientist with the aid of rotatable parabolic dish antennas at various sites around the world. Two well known ones are Green Bank in West Virginia and Jodrell bank in England.

5 WATT HAM SIGNAL GETS THROUGH WHEN CELL PHONE CAN'T

On page 95 you'll see a picture of Ham Chris Kantarjiev, K6DBG, on the side of Mt. Conness in Yosemite National Park. He and fellow backpacker Eszter Tompos, KI6SES were stuck overnight at 12, 400 ft and wanted to tell their base camp friends they were okay. Their cell phone wouldn't work but their hand held reached a repeater 200 miles away. A repeater listener agreed to relay a phone message back to the camp ground base location. Ham Radio wins again!

WCRA Survey Questions RESULTS IN BOLD

8 TYPE TITLE HERE

1. I have attended the monthly meeting-

38% Every Month (If you check this box please see question 1a) **15%** Once every three to four months **0%** Once every five or six months **8%** Once a year **8%** Never (If you check this box please see question 1b)

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

38% Meeting and maintaining friendships within the club

15% Learning about what's new in amateur radio

23% Getting advice on how to be a better ham

23% Updates on what is happening within the club

23% Asking fellow hams for advice about the hobby

15% Other(Please specify)

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

8% Bad day of the week/month **15%** Do not like monthly presentation topics

8% Do not like refreshments **0%** Do not like location

15% Do not like Board of Directors/Other members of WCRA

23% Other (Please specify)

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

69% Hamfest **8%** Special Olympics **62%** Field Day **54%** Wheaton 4th of July Parade **46%** Club Picnic
38% Boy/Girl Scout events **23%** Christmas Dinner **0%** I do not participate in club activities (If you check this box please explain why)

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

Editor's note, these are the grand totals and not necessarily the average.

9 Advice from an experienced elmer

13 Current or up and coming radio technology (I.E. DSTAR, internet assisted Ham operations)

21 Practical applications of Ham equipment and technology (Example-Weather Spotting)

16 Emergency Ham preparedness/Emergency Ham protocols

10 General rules and guidelines for amateur radio

16 Types of radio activities available to the typical Ham.

6 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)

8% Coke **0%** Pepsi **8%** Diet Coke **15%** Diet Pepsi **0%** Sprite **0%** Sprite Zero **8%** 7up

0% Diet 7up **15%** Flavored pop (Cherry, Root Beer etc). **0%** Fruit Punch/Fruit drinks **23%** Water

23% Coffee/Tea/Ice Tea/Iced Coffee **8%** 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

31% Cookies **0%** Chips & dips **15%** Vegetables **8%** Snack cakes **23%** Crackers & Cheese

0% Candy **0%** Other

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

31% Highly favorable **23%** Somewhat favorable **8%** Alright **0%** Somewhat unfavorable **0%** Totally unfavorable **8%** No Opinion

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

27% Repeater and Repeater maintenance 3% Community Activities(IE Special Olympics etc)
27% Promotion of itself and Ham Radio in general 27% Increasing Club Membership
23% Other _____

9

8. I expect the WCRA board of directors to-

38% Maintain club equipment and provide it when necessary to members
15% Educate the membership about radio equipment and advice all members on how to be a successful amateur radio operator
42% Inform the membership about upcoming events/projects where I could be of help
38% Expand the club and Amateur Radio in general 18% Come up with new or improve fundraising activities 15%
All of the above 15% Other(Please explain)

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

8% Monthly meetings (I.E. present a Ham related topic at our monthly meetings)
8% Community Projects 8% Maintaining and upgrading club equipment 46% Hamfest
38% Field Day 15% Repeater/Weekly Nets 15% Other_
8% I do not wish to help the club out at this time. (If you check this one, please explain why)

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)

38% Very Comfortable 8% Somewhat Comfortable 8% Somewhat Uncomfortable
15% Very Uncomfortable 0% No Opinion

11. Any further comments/questions

*Thank you once again for your responses. If you have any questions about the results email me at m2e1990@gmail.com.
Note this survey is not a scientific survey, just a general feedback survey.*

NEWSLETTER EDITOR & Chief- Mary Tuohy KC9IJO

NEWSLETTER PHOTOGRAPHER-Jim Ward W9DHX

If you are interested in taking over or helping out with the Hamletter please email KC9IJO at m2e1990@gmail.com

President-

Vice President KC9IJO Mary Tuohy m2e1990@gmail.com

Secretary- AB9RN Kevin Oleniczak

Treasurer- N9HQ Ken Kwasniewski

Property Custodian- NJ9E-Dale Kwarta

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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.

