



HAMLETTER



Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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Good Propagations

The October meeting program was on the topic of amateur radio legal rights as they relate to antenna structures in residential zoned areas. Our guest speaker was Attorney Jim Oconnell, W9WU of La Grange, IL. Jim spoke of personal experience in the Chicagoland area as to what it takes to get city ordinances changed in the favor of ham radio antenna support structures.



The executive committee appointed two members to the RAB Board to fill vacancies. They are Carol Schroeder KB9FYL and Charles Matthews WB9SGD.



Good Propagation's is the new name for the article describing last month's meeting. Send the editor your submissions if you have pictures or something to share about the meeting.



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Event Calendar



Next WCRA Meeting
11/2 @ 7:30PM

SRO / CFAR Fox Hunts
All Hunts Start @ 8PM
11/3 KMart Lot - Elmhurst
11/10 Downers Grove Golf Club Lot
11/17 Centennial Park - Addison
11/24 Thorndale & Irving Pk on WoodDale Rd

VE Testing
Lombard Library
11/15 @ 6:30PM

2 Meter Net on 145.31 Mhz
Sunday Nights @ 8PM

Hamletter Submissions Deadline
4th Friday of the Month

Christmas Dinner
Location TBD

WCRA Hamfest
Kane County Fairgrounds
1/20/2013

WCRA Member Renewel Dues

WCRA Meeting Minutes

**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Agenda for the Regular Club Meeting for September
October 5th, 2012**
First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL



N9JPG -Secretary

CALL TO ORDER	7:36pm
Call made by Presiding Officer	
Approval of Agenda	
Additions/Corrections	Approved with addition of Scholarship fund
INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND OPENING REMARKS	W9WU, KA9HEL, WA9VAA, W9LIW, NV9R, K9JWG, N9OA, KA9OSF, W9BK, K9ILF, WA9ACO, WA9FTS, N9DKO, WB9SGD, N9LBA, KA9RVS, KB9FYL, KA3HSW, WA9SGF, Nj9E, KC9IJO, N9JPG, N9HDW
Opening Remarks Any Board Member	
Tonight's program	Jim O'Connell W9WU joins us to talk about ham operator legal rights.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING	
Corrections Secretary	New callsign for Kevin AB9RN to N9JPG.
Approval Presiding Officer	Motioned carried
OFFICER REPORTS	
President <open>	
Vice President Mary, KC9IJO	Vacancy for president still exists and we are seeking a volunteer for president
Secretary Kevin, N9JPG	Nothing
Treasurer Ken, N9HQ	Balances were given
• Bank Account balances	
Property Custodian Dale, NJ9E	Nothing
Approval of officer reports	Motioned carried
REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB) Report	
A. Chairman	Two vacancies have been filled. Carol Schroeder KB9FYL and Charlie Matthews WB9SGD have been appointed to the RAB. Motioned by Rich Bauer, Seconded by Peter Richey to approve. Unanimous vote to approve.
B. Questions	George gave an update on the 31 repeater that it has been restored. The club is very appreciative for George's time and persistence with repairing the controller and restoring the repeater to full operation after the lightening damage.
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Public Service Steve, N9OA a)Chicago Marathon John N9MWF	Steve gave an update on the marathon. John Cheney will lead the aid station at the marathon this Sunday. A \$300 check was given to the club to cover our costs to support the Wheaton parade on labor day. Steve made a motion to allocate \$250 for the marathon. Discussion on the motion covered the purpose for the allocation which was gas, pizza afterwards and propane to heat the CSU. The motion carried. John asked to meet after the meeting to hand out jackets and hats

WCRA Meeting Minutes (cont)

		for those participating in the marathon support.
CSU	John, N9MWF	Still researching the type of jacks to support the CSU as the original ones hung too low and became damaged. They are also looking into the type of roof window/vent to replace the damaged one from field day.
Hamfest	Kurt-KB9RTO	Rich noted that he has tickets available for purchase. Flyers are available for members to take.
Club Awards	John, N9MWF	No report
Field Day	<open>	No report
Christmas Party	Dale, NJ9E	Looking for a new location.
<u>Hamletter</u>	Mary KC9IJO	Kevin N9JPG will take over as editor. Send submissions to kevinoleniczak@gmail.com
Website	Tom, N9WBW	Pictures
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	No report
Program	Mary, KC9IJO	Look forward to Jim's presentation tonight
Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	No report
Membership	Tom, N9WBW	No report
VE Program	George, NE9ET	No report
By-Laws Review	Tom	No report
N9WBW		
Approval of committee reports		All approved
OLD BUSINESS		
A. JOTA		Kevin will host this on Saturday 10/20 at his house, others are welcome to join.
B. Sunday Night Nets		Nets resuming this Sunday for each week.
NEW BUSINESS		
Don Drake Scholarship Fund		Jim is interested if nominations exist.
RAB Requested Actions		George requested an extension of 1 month to provide a response to the formal requests from the June meeting.
220 Repeater for sale		George asked if the club was interested in selling the 220 repeater as the 6m club was interested in buying it. Attendees were polled as to who has 220 equipment and uses it. Approximately 10 people had it. A vote carried to postpone discussion to a future meeting.
Repeater tower work		A volunteer to help climb Carol's tower to do some basic maintenance are needed.
ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS		250 feet of RG-8u coax for sale. George mentioned he had two 19" rack 30" tall units for sale.
ADJOURNMENT		8:07pm

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

Members Update

This past week, we lost a member of our community, who joined WCRA with me, over 20 years ago.

Ron Rateno, previously served as secretary, managed our Hamfest ticket sales, and was an active participant in field day.

Life's responsibilities called Ron and his family away from our area almost a decade ago. This past week, health issues, took Ron from us.

Ron's wishes were for privacy, though, please keep Ron, His wife, and daughter, in your thoughts and prayers.

Tom N9WBW

The Veep Corner

Hello everyone, I hope you had a good time at JOTA and are looking forward to the club auction at our November 2nd club meeting. And I'm sure you are eager to know how the auction will work.

For starters, I'm sure those of you who have items to sell would prefer cash so if you wish to buy something, at the auction please bring cash (and lots of it).

Second, if you do have something to sell please put a minimum price on it although I have to caution you that it may not necessarily sell at that price (I'm hoping for higher and if you're selling something I bet you're hoping higher too).

Third, if you do have something to sell (or you would like to see what is on sale), please bring your items to our meeting by 7:15 p.m. That way I can have time to set up and put a price tag on your item before I have to start the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Fourth, the business meeting will start at 7:30 and the auction will take place promptly ten minutes after the business meeting ends. And I'm hoping the business meeting will be a little more entertaining than usual

because I'm incorporating a second club program into the meeting. Dale (NJ9E) has constructed a "Radio in a Box" and he'll tell you how you can make one too. (Perhaps from spare parts you pick up at the club auction). The auction will be going quickly so don't snooze, because you might lose out on the item you want.

Fifth, please contact me prior to the club auction to let me know if you have something to sell. I might even send out a preview list prior to the meeting if I get enough of a response. My email of course is m2e1990@gmail.com Also, If the item you put up for auction doesn't sell, please take it home with you and perhaps you'll have better luck at our club table during our annual Mid-Winter Hamfest.

Lastly, if you have any other questions regarding the club auction please contact me at (630) 222-9732 or email me at m2e1990@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing everyone in November.

Sincerely,
Mary T
KC9IJO



WCRA Auction Suggestions...

Make a sign, using at least an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper using magic marker or black crayon - PRINT with big letters and include:

- Make and Model of Item
- Minimum Price Bid or "No Minimum Bid"
- Instruction Book Included?
- Works or Doesn't Work
- Owner Name

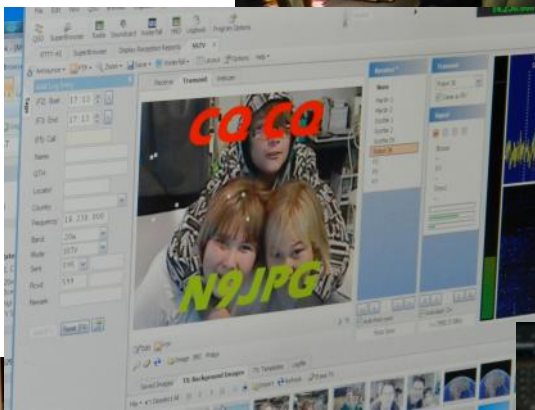
Bring your Item early so you can get a place on the table and answer any questions from prospective bidders. Bring change for your buyers and decide if you will accept a local check.

Jamboree on the Air



The 55th Annual Scouting Jamboree On the Air (JOTA) was held October 20th and 21st. WCRA member Kurt Rubin KB9RTO organized the event with Cub Scout Pack 317 to be held at the amateur station of Kevin Oleniczak N9JPG. Peter Richey N9HDW attended to help explain the hobby and get the kids on the air.

A total of 9 scouts from 2nd to 5th grade attended and made numerous contacts on 20 meter phone to other scouts. Contacts made were from the east and west coasts and the kids exchanged a range of topics from favorite sports and video games to the weather and scouting. The kids all said they really enjoyed the event as did the parents and they expressed their enthusiasm for getting their ham license in the near-future. Peter gathered video footage of the event which may appear in a brief upcoming meeting program.



A Thanksgiving Message

Later this month we'll be celebrating a truly unique American holiday. The USA was the 1st country in the world to declare a nation day of Thanksgiving. And in that same spirit I would like to take a few minutes to say, "Thank you", to those who have been helpful to me these past couple of months.

First of all I'd like to say "Thank you very very much" to Kevin (N9JPG) for taking over the Hamletter. As much as I loved reading and editing your newsletter articles I kept finding myself dealing with lack of time issues. Also, Kevin, thank you for helping me out in so many other ways such as volunteering to host JOTA at your home, running the Sunday night net, and for doing all of this on top of your job as club secretary. Thank you very much. I owe you big time.

Secondly, I need to thank Jim Ward (W9DHX) for always helping me out with the Hamletter, the Sunday Night nets, and for everything else you do for the club. I always appreciate your eager spirit and your wisdom on things that I may not always know about.

Thirdly, thank you Kurt (KB9RTO) for all of the work you have done organizing the club's participation in JOTA and our all important Hamfest as well. Although I'm sure Kurt would equally be grateful to all of you if you 1) distributed flyers and or 2) went around to other radio clubs and/or talked up/tweeted with your neighbors

about our annual "Mid Winter Hamfest".

George (KA9HSW), I'm thankful to you too for all of the hard work you did with our club repeater and with the Repeater Board. Let us know how I can be of service to you as well.

Ruth (KA9RZG), I'm grateful to you for always doing an excellent job with our club's annual Christmas party. I'm sure what she has planned for December will be spectacular.

Dale (NJ9E) I'm grateful for you as well for organizing our club's property, for that presentation, and I'm grateful for the wonderful advice and friendship you have given me over these past years.

Peter (N9HDW), thank you for always being willing to lend a hand (and for your wisdom

in matters I may not know much about).

Ken (N9HQ), I am so grateful for the wonderful job you do as club treasurer. I don't know where we as a club would be without you.

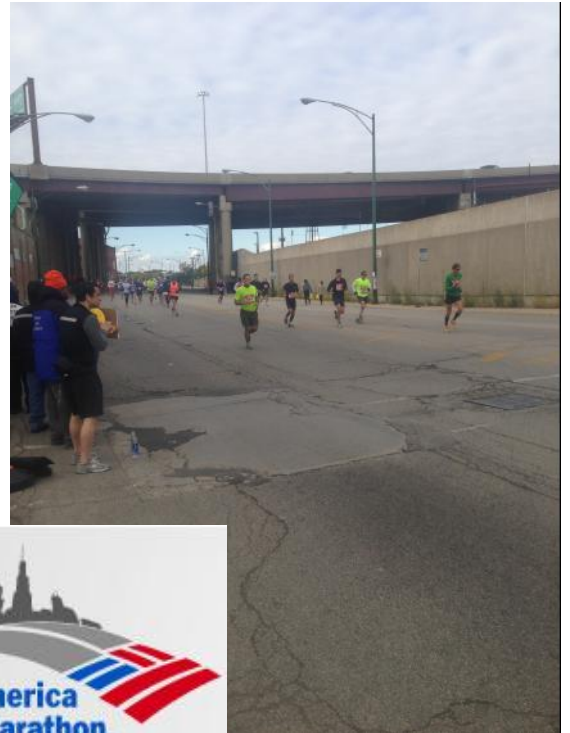
And I am also grateful to each and every one of you for your support and understanding as I continue to act as your temporary president until a new president is found.

Happy Thanksgiving.
73 Mary Tuohy KC9IJO



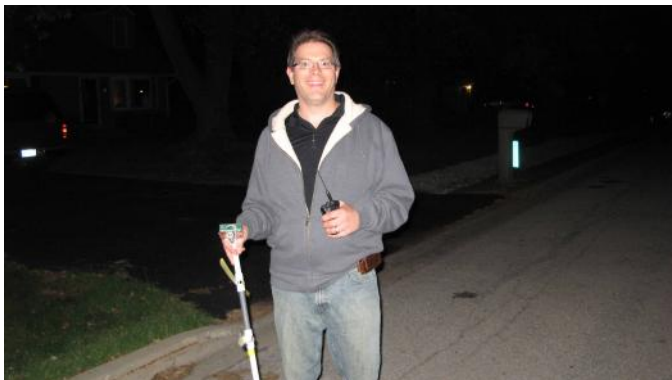
Chicago Marathon

The Chicago Marathon went off without a hitch on October 7th and as usual, WCRA supported aid station 21 in Chinatown along the route. Club members that participated were John Cheney, Joe Grosshauser, Jack Feldman and Kenneth Kwasniewski. The CSU was also deployed to support the event.



Fox Hunting Fun

This month I attended my first fox hunt sponsored by SRO / CFAR. Tom Geletka N9CBA offered to lend me his portable RDF setup for a hunt and what fun it was! The whole group participating was very friendly and helpful. My hunt lasted about an hour and a half and was a great chance to hone my direction finding skills and get some added exercise. After driving frantically through the west suburbs for an hour, I was convinced I needed to set out on foot for the final chase only to end up walking another 3 miles in the dark getting chased by skunks. Truly it was a blast and encourage everyone to try one. Tom can fill you in on all the details!



Kevin - N9JPG



Tiny antenna and the fox

QST Review

6th Graders Contact Outer Space
By Jim Ward, W9DHX



COVER STORY FROM QST – KF7RCV TUNES IN HER CLASS TO AN ARISS CONTACT

Kaci Heins, KF7RCV, tells a story (page 75 and cover photo) about how she organized an “after school” program called Space Spartans for students in her class in Flagstaff, Arizona. She called on the help of local Amateur operators to teach radio classes and eventually build a JOVE receiver kit. From there, the Space Spartans expanded their horizons to include local radio clubs and the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff. You'll enjoy this story that ends with a live contact in front of a packed school gym audience as the students talked to the ISS!

COMPETITION FOR THE FISHING ROD TO SET ANTENNAS FOR FIELD DAY

Bob, NV9R, has arrived early at Field Day every year to set antenna lines in tall trees with his fishing rod. He now has a competitor. Mike Walker, VA3MW, tells on page 20 how he is using a RC Helicopter to hoist a small lead weight and line into position. The mini-chopper is GPS and altitude-control equipped and Mike claims he can drop his 2 ounce weight and line with great accuracy. (You're still our choice, Bob!)

MOBILE QSOS AS A DISTRACTION FROM A LEGAL POINT OF VIEW

If you use your ham radio in your car, the page 81 article is must reading for you. John Swartz, WA9AQN, looks at the distraction issue in depth. A mobile QSO is it less complicated than “texting” and therefore not as dangerous? John suggests you look over your mobile installation for the safety for yourself and your passengers. Is everything convenient so you don't have to take your eyes off the road? John is a lawyer, as well as a ham, and he has some good ideas for you.

FCC RELEASES NEW STUDY ON AMATEUR RADIO – THAT'S US!

In February of this year, Congress told the FCC to look into Amateur Radio. A study has been released that has a very long title: “Uses and Capabilities of Amateur Radio Service Communications in Emergencies and Disaster Relief: Report to Congress Pursuant to Section 6414 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.” Page 85 summarizes the report and gives the ARRL opinion on the good and bad parts of the FCC's opinions. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA is the author. Read it and find out what your government thinks about your role in emergencies.

Wanted...

WCRA is still in need of a few net control operators for the Sunday night net. If interested, please contact Mary KC9IJO at m2e1990@gmail.com

Hamfest Update

The flyers are out, the tickets are in, so let's get the WCRA Hamfest into a SPIN! The Hamfest is getting closer and table reservations are coming in. So if you're trying to get a head start on spring cleaning, our Hamfest on Jan 20th would be a great time to turn that old ham shack stuff into some green \$\$\$\$. Find Jim Ward on the air or at a meeting if you would like to take advantage of that.

The Hamfest forums are once again being headed up by Peter Richey (N9HDW) so if there is something you would like to learn about or if you want to see talked about, see Peter. The Hamfest tickets are in and you can get a hold of Rich Bauer (N9DKO) if you would like them. It would be of great help if you could get the word out on email groups, Facebook, Twitter, Trade Schools, etc.

It would also be appreciated if you can identify businesses that would like to donate door prizes. Finally, there is a need to find additional volunteers to help with the event. If you can work a shift or two, there are tasks for those with a portable HT and those without.

73
KB9RTO
Email-kb9rto@yahoo.com



Dear Ann Ode...

Dear Ann Ode,

Congratulations! I heard you won the grand prize in our club's raffle:
A 3-day, 2-night trip to the Hawaii Hamfest.
Signed, Jealous

Dear Jealous,

Yes I did. However the days are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, but the nights are Thursday and Friday.

Dear Ann Ode,

Thank you for your letter of inquiry to "Ham Flite Air Charter Service". Yes, you may bring your dog onboard for the flight to the Florida Hamfest as long as he is in a kennel and can stand-up, sit-up, lay-down and roll-over.
Signed, Service Rep # 3

Dear Service Rep,

Forget it! I won't be able to teach him all that by next Friday.

WCRA Picnic Pictures

The annual WCRA club picnic was held in September and was a great chance to enjoy some food and catch up with one another. All club members are encouraged to participate in these club outings and we hope you plan to join us for the upcoming Christmas dinner!



COD Shelter, Repairs Needed?

Recently George Henry KA3HSW of our RAB board took a visit to the COD site where our repeater used to be. His inspection of the shelter, we once kept our radios in, found a roof leaking but otherwise in fair condition. The RAB is taking another look at this site for future relocation of the club repeater and may find it useful to repair the shelter roof if we anticipate using it in the future.

Pictures are shown to help club members understand the condition of the shelter and address the need for funds to repair it in the near future.



understand the condition of the shelter which may be addressed through a request for funds to repair it in the near future.

On the Air

This is a compilation of events and contests from various sources on the internet. For details, search for the item of interest on the internet.



Type	Date	Event	Sponsor
Special Event	11/1/2012	Music By the Bay	W2CCW
Special Event	11/1/2012	Tuckerton Wireless (WSC) 100th Anniversary (WSC Site Operation)	Tuckerton Wireless Amateur Radio Club
Contest	11/2/2012	NCCC Sprint	
Contest	11/2/2012	ARRL 160-Meter Contest	
Special Event	11/3/2012	45N90W	Wisconsin Valley Radio Association
Special Event	11/3/2012	Dupont Rescue Experience	North Carolina USAR Task Force 6
Special Event	11/3/2012	Radio Central Day	Radio Central Amateur Radio Club
Special Event	11/3/2012	Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald (Split Rock Lighthouse)	Stillwater (Minnesota) Amateur Radio Association & Radio City, Inc
Contest	11/3/2012	IPARC Contest, CW	
Special Event	11/4/2012	Extra Hour Special Event Station	Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club
Contest	11/4/2012	ARRLEME Contest	
Contest	11/4/2012	Ukrainian DX Contest	
Contest	11/4/2012	IPARC Contest, SSB	
Contest	11/4/2012	High Speed Club CW Contest	
Contest	11/4/2012	DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	
Special Event	11/5/2012	John McCrae House Remembrance Day	Guelph Amateur Radio Club
Contest	11/5/2012	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	
Contest	11/6/2012	ARS Spartan Sprint	
Special Event	11/7/2012	US Marine Corps Birthday	Don Greenwood, K5DLO
Special Event	11/9/2012	Sinking of Edmund Fitzgerald	Livonia Amateur Radio Club
Special Event	11/9/2012	Stuart Air Show	Martin County ARES/RACES
Special Event	11/9/2012	World's Largest Cuckoo Clock/Brick Wall Sculpture Kick-Off	Brick Wall Sculpture/ Community Arts Council
Contest	11/9/2012	NCCC Sprint	
Contest	11/10/2012	Kentucky State QSO Party	Western KY DX Association
Special Event	11/10/2012	Highlands and Islands	Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association
Special Event	11/10/2012	HMS Surprise	Star of India Amateur Radio Club
Special Event	11/10/2012	Honor US Coast Guard Vets	None
Special Event	11/10/2012	US Veterans Day; US Marine Corp Birthday established 1775	USS Midway(CV-41) Museum
Special Event	11/10/2012	Veterans Day	Mich-A-Con ARC
Special Event	11/10/2012	Veterans Day SE	Armored Force Amateur Radio Net
Special Event	11/10/2012	Veterans Day Special Event Station	Emporia Amateur Radio Society
Special Event	11/10/2012	Veterans Day Triple Event - USMC Birthday, Veterans Day, Loss of Five Sullivan Brothers	Five Sullivan Brothers Amateur Radio Club
Special Event	11/11/2012	USS South Dakota BBS 7 Veteran's Day Salute!	Northwest Iowa Amateur Radio Club
Special Event	11/11/2012	Veterans Day	North Port Amateur Radio Club
Special Event	11/11/2012	Veterans Day Salute	The American Legion Amateur Radio Club
Contest	11/11/2012	WAE DX Contest, RTTY	
Contest	11/11/2012	10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	
Contest	11/11/2012	JDX Phone Contest	
Contest	11/11/2012	OK/OM DX Contest, CW	
Contest	11/11/2012	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	
Contest	11/12/2012	CQ-WE Contest	
Contest	11/12/2012	NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	
Contest	11/14/2012	CWops Mini-CWT Test	
Contest	11/14/2012	RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	
Contest	11/15/2012	CWops Mini-CWT Test	
Contest	11/15/2012	NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	
Contest	11/16/2012	NCCC Sprint	
Contest	11/16/2012	YO International PSK31 Contest	
Special Event	11/17/2012	NRA's 141st Birthday party	Yavapai Amateur Radio Club
Special Event	11/17/2012	Tuckerton Historical Society 40th Anniversary W2WSC/40	Tuckerton Wireless ARC, Old Barney ARC, South Jersey DX Assn
Contest	11/17/2012	CQSA SSB Contest	
Contest	11/17/2012	Feld Hell Sprint	
Contest	11/18/2012	SARL Field Day Contest	
Contest	11/18/2012	LZ DX Contest	
Contest	11/18/2012	All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	
Contest	11/18/2012	RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	
Contest	11/18/2012	EPC PSK63 QSO Party	
Contest	11/19/2012	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	
Contest	11/19/2012	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	
Special Event	11/23/2012	Steamship Portland Commemorative Special Event Station	Falmouth Amateur Radio Association
Contest	11/23/2012	NCCC Sprint	
Special Event	11/24/2012	17th Annual Radio on the Square	The Villages Amateur Radio Club
Special Event	11/24/2012	Boorman House Christmas Program	JunEAU County Amateur Radio Club
Special Event	11/24/2012	Ten-Ten International Club Station Special Event	Ten-Ten International
Special Event	11/24/2012	The First Pilgrim Landing at Plymouth	Whitman Amateur Radio Club
Contest	11/25/2012	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	
Contest	11/28/2012	SKCC Sprint	
Contest	11/28/2012	CWops Mini-CWT Test	
Contest	11/29/2012	CWops Mini-CWT Test	
Contest	11/29/2012	QRP ARC Topband Sprint	
Contest	11/29/2012	RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	
Contest	11/30/2012	NCCC Sprint	

CQ Hamletter Contributors

I'm excited to lead the Hamletter and would like it to be an extension of our club meetings to help keep the members connected to one another. There are many amateur radio related activities taking place each month and I encourage you to take pictures and share a brief note with myself. I'm interested in both club organized events and related things you may be doing yourself. Here are some example ideas to consider: working on your shack, participating in a contest, enhancing or fixing the CSU, working on the repeater, or helping out at a club event. Send me whatever you have and I'll get it added.

Kevin - N9JPG

WCRA General Membership Meetings

WCRA meet the first friday of most months at the First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton at 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 snacks. This is followed by an amateur radio related program. We would like to see you there to share the enthusiasm. If you want to join the WCRA, visit our web site to get the application and join us at an upcoming meeting!

WCRA Officers

President - open, open
Vice President - Mary Tuohy, KC9IJO
Treasurer - Ken Kwasnewski, N9HQ
Secretary - Kevin Oleniczak, N9JPG
Custodian - Dale Kwarta, NJ9E

HAMLETTER

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(630) 604-0157
wcra@w9ccu.org

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs is to further the art of radio communications and electronics by mentoring anyone with like interests, participating in community events, preparedness in assisting in the event of a disaster where other communication modes can fail, while promoting social camaraderie among its members.