



HAMLETTER



Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 593 February 2013

Good Propagations

I'd like to thank everyone for coming out to this years hamfest. I had a lot of help from our past Chair John Faber WT9Y, thank you. Thank you to all those that were part of the committee. The weather held out for the most part. We're going to be looking for ideas for next year. The forums were great! Be on the lookout for a video that was shot while the fest was going on, and also keep your eyes out for Dale's Ammo Boxes on sale.

Kurt KB9RTO



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Event Calendar



Public Service Event - Lemont
2/3/2013 @ 5:30 AM

Next WCRA Meeting
2/8/2013 @ 7:30 PM

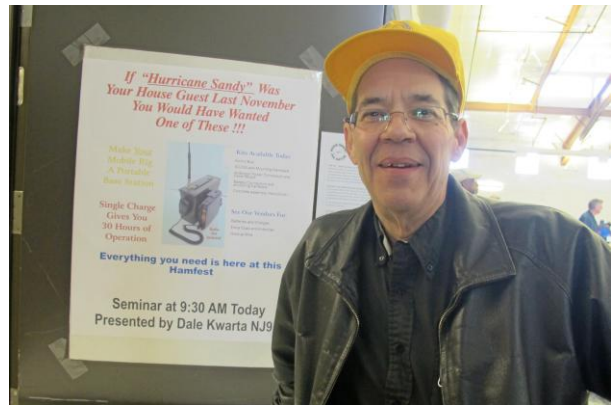
SRO / CFAR Fox Hunts
All Hunts Start @ 8PM
2/2 KMart Lot - Elmhurst
2/9 Downers Grove Golf Club Lot
2/16 Centennial Park - Addison
2/23 Thorndale & Irving Pk on WoodDale Rd

VE Testing
Lombard Library
2/28 @ 6:30PM

2 Meter Net on 145.31 Mhz
Sunday Nights @ 8PM

Hamletter Submissions Deadline
4th Friday of the Month

Good Propagations (cont)



Take the hamfest survey on page 11!

Good Propagations (cont)

The following letter was received by the club after our 2013 hamfest and is reprinted in part.

The W9CCU 2013 Winter Hamfest: 14 ham radios and 50 tons of 'related stuff'.

It was a 'falling edge' temperature day when we had flip-flopped from balmy global warming temperatures to bone chilling nominal values for the region. I was loaded by 5:30AM, and I had heat by 6:00AM or so. I arrived on site to do my usual, somewhat embarrassing dance of getting a table and paying for it same day.....although I did phone ahead....this time.

And that's where I have to begin paying my compliment. I'm not big on names or callsigns.....there's just too many to remember, so I can't cite them herein although I'd like to. I was impressed with the event from start to finish. I've done this for many years now in about the same way. I sell some junk, buy some junk, have a few laughs, meet a few buds and go home.

From the onset, the volunteers were friendly and accommodating. I had two people help me unload my heavy junk from my truck. They did it gingerly and respectfully, just as I would with somebody else's stuff. Within minutes, I had a massive barge of a cart parked at my table and unloaded, again with the help of the volunteers.

...

Throughout the event, I saw the volunteers interact with the folks. I had a good time; they did too. The seminars looked great. I heard that the VE sessions were quite good. The ARRL dude with the Baldor hat was precisely what was needed at the event. A good spirited, level headed dude.

In my few moments of leaving my junk to chance and walking around procuring various upgrades to the pile, I did notice a shortage of ham radios. There were some.....but not many. That doesn't bother me. I know how tough it is to do business in this state.....nobody wants to come here to sell stuff. That's not our fault.

When I packed up and left, folks offered to help with that too. The food was great and ample, parking was easy, bathrooms were clean.

This is my new favorite Hamfest. I'm not much of a joiner because I tend to do go both deep and broad on matters of technology, both in the theoretical and the hands-on which often conflicts with various collective entropies. Further, I tend to go fast on these matters as I've been at it for a long time, and have limited time for the hobby. As a result, solutions need to be expedient. It's not a matter of dislike or introversion...I'll gladly show and teach...it's a matter of time division multiplexing.

With that said, I'd like to send a warm thanks to the W9CCU team for a job well done. If there's ever anything I can do to help W9CCU, I'd certainly do it and make every effort to do it right. Your membership set a fine example of what Ham radio is and why it is worth the effort. Yes, I can email the VK station in Austrailia easier than I can raise him on 10 meters, but the human interaction goes way beyond that. It stimulates the mind and promotes stuff that you can't get by texting. Can I volunteer next year to help set up and whatnot without being anointed and or learning what the hell a wouf hong is?

Paul L. Schimel PE
Aka K5NJP, PG00017030

Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS
 Monthly Membership Meeting
 January 4, 2013, 1930 hrs

OPENING

Call to Order	1934 hrs, local time by N9OA
Opening Remarks/Announcements	KC9IJO has to work this evening and N9JPG is out of town
Approval of Agenda	Approved by unanimous consent
Introductions of Members/Guests	N9OA, N9HQ, NJ9E, AJ9M, NE9ET, NV9R, WA9FTS, N9CBA, N9MWF, KB9RCO, W9DHX, K9UJI, N9DKO, KA0DSF, W9BK, N9HDW, WB9SGD, KA3HSW, W9NJM, KC9KHT. Guests: Rosanne and John (W9MBS) of Addison, IL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 2012 meeting

Corrections/Questions	None
Approval	Motion by KB9RCO, Second by N9MWF. Motion carried.

OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9OA)	N9OA Program for this evening :Hamfest Future programs: Video of museum trip by N9JPG. N9OA read the following report: First of all the church has urged us to leave this room no later than 9:30 p.m. This is so their cleaning crew can quickly clean up after us and be out of the building by 10 p.m. Second, the February and March club meeting will be held on the 2nd Friday of the month instead of the first. The February meeting will take place on February 8th and the March meeting will take place on March 8th. This is due to a scheduling conflict with the church. Lastly, as Steve said in his article I am trying to keep the Sunday night net going. Now it's been hard for me to try and maintain the Sunday night net since I have a tendency to work on Sunday night. So if someone wishes to become Net control chairman and take over the Net permanently that's great. Meanwhile I have a sign up sheet going through March asking for volunteers to run the Sunday Night net. Please consider volunteering for a Sunday or two. Thank you for your help and I'm looking forward to seeing you at Hamfest. P.S. Dale, thanks for covering snacks for me
Vice President (KC9IJO)	
Secretary (N9JPG)	Absent.
Treasurer (N9HQ)	Bank account and Drake fund balances given. 2013 Dues are due! Anybody wanting a new name badge, see Ken
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	No report.

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (KA3HSW)	KA3HSW made another call to our contact to perform maintenance on the 440 machine.
Questions & Answers	None.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Committee chairs are requested to keep reports brief and concise.
 Please hold any and all questions for Continuing Business.*

HAMLETTER (N9JPG)	Absent.
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Meeting Minutes (cont)

Website (N9WBW)	Absent.
Public Relations (W9UZ)	Absent.
Club Awards (N9MWF)	No report.
Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)	No report.
CSU (N9MWF)	Per N9WRO, Old jacks are off. Fabrication of new jack stand mounts in progress and should be installed for hamfest. CSU is fully set up for hamfest.
Interference (<i>open position</i>)	See Steve to volunteer
Training (WB9SGD)	No report.
VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)	For last year, the library renovations hampered efforts, however 31 exam elements where passes, 23 new hams, and 5 upgrades. Three where new hams who earned at least general on their first sitting. The team will be at hamfest.
[Meeting] Program (KC9LJO)	No additional report.
Club Nets (<i>open position</i>)	See Steve to volunteer.
Hamfest (KB9RTO)	Deferred report to program.
Field Day (<i>open position</i>)	See Steve to volunteer
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	Went well. Good food. some still owe \$15 for in attendance.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	NV9R suggested that the holiday party require advance payment in the future

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Membership Applications	None
Field Day Alternative Power (N9HDW)	A presentation was given on using alternative power at field day. Considerable discussion ensued regarding viability and field day rules.

CLOSING

Anchors	None.
Announcements	None.
Guest Comments	None.
Member Comments	KA0DSF mentioned that K9ILF's father or mother had a heart attack. No report on condition. KA0DSF introduced his guests. He did missionary work in Ecuador with John. N9HQ made a last call for dues for the evening. See N9DKO for hamfest tickets.
Adjournment	2003 hours.

There will be a WCRA executive meeting on Monday, February 4, 2013 at 1900 hrs. The location is Caribou Coffee, Roosevelt Rd at Main St. In Glen Ellyn.

All members are welcome to attend.

The President's Corner

The first month of 2013 is in the rear view mirror. Hamfest 2012/13 is history. Field Day has a chairman or two. Elections are upon us. Opportunities abound.



Congratulations to Kurt and his highly efficient committee for yet another successful hamfest to log in our history books. It appears from early indications that we turned a respectable profit. Without a doubt, we did better than last year's \$400ish figure. E-mails are heavily circulating among the committees decision makers regarding various facets of the event's future. Kurt has commissioned a survey. Please take it and reply directly to Kurt.

While at the post-hamfest pizza social, Joe N9WRO began a conversation regarding the operating requirements of our annual Field Day activities. The net result of that conversation notwithstanding, I asked if that meant he was interested in serving as Field Day chairman. After some more discussion, and answering only two questions, Joe agreed to serve along with Mike KC9KHT as a co-chairman with the condition that I assume responsibility for procuring the potrapotta. How come I always get the crap jobs? With the emergency management background shared by the Field Day staff, I am certain that every detail of the event will be well planned weeks if not months before the event begins. I would not be surprised to see a full-scale exercise to practice for what is itself a full- scale exercise. Good luck guys, and thanks.

Elections will take place at our annual meeting in April. Elections will be for two great terms being May 1. The offices for the regular election are Vice President and Treasurer. There will also be an election for the office of president to finish the current term. I was appointed to serve until their next election. As Mary did recently as Vice President, the elected individual will take office immediately upon election. Please see me if you are interested in serving in any of the aforementioned officer positions or in serving as nominating committee chairman.

We have been approached with a public service opportunity which will give us a forth event. Please see the article about this opportunity later on this publication.

WCRA Membership Dues were Due by December 31st. Grace period ends by the April club meeting. Please send in your check to the club PO box address.

The Veep Corner



Boy! I can't believe its February 2013 already. Speaking of which, I would like to remind everyone that the monthly club meeting will be taking place on February 8th, a.k.a. the 2nd Friday in February, instead of the 1st Friday (ironically February 1st). Yes we will still be meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton, Illinois at the intersection of Jefferson and Ellis so that won't change (at least until the end of 2013.) Kevin (N9JPG) has agreed to make a presentation on this wonderful Amateur Radio museum he and his family discovered one day for the February club meeting. We will also be moving the March club meeting to the 2nd Friday in the month.

I also want to thank all of you who volunteered to help out at the Hamfest. (Yes I know slightly off usual VP topic). Kurt, you did a great job with the Hamfest and I hope that Hamfest 2014 is bigger than 2013.

I know that I am trying to check into the Sunday Night Net a little more often than I have in the past (my work schedule for the moment is accommodating me). I want to thank everyone who has taken a shift as Net Control chairman and I am also looking for a few more Net Control operators. If interested, in being a Sunday Night Net Operator, please call me at (630)222-9732 or email me at m2e1990@gmail.com.

Mary - KC9IJO

2013 Field Day Planning!

It appears that due to some careless comments while eating pizza after the HamFest, Mike Wilson and I have "volunteered" to co-chair Field Day this year. Not to be outdone, our president also had a bout with foot-in-mouth disease and has "volunteered" to handle certain aspects of Field Day. His official title cannot be printed here but let us just say it has something to do with a big blue box (that is NOT the T.A.R.D.I.S.).



There were a number of folks, including most of the Executive Board, around after the HamFest and we talked some about Field Day. I brought up again the idea that has been floated around of having this Field Day focused on 'Alternative Power' and my offer of supplying 2 deep cycle batteries. Of the few people there, no one seemed too interested but I think it is an interesting concept that should be looked into further. In looking into the rules; I discovered that in order for a club to operate on alternative power we would have to run as class AB and be limited to 5 watts on all transmitters. That seems like a very large leap into uncharted waters with little time to prepare. I would recommend we do a proof of concept in 2013 and then decide what we could do in 2014. We could start either the 20 M or 40 M phone station at 5 watts at 1:00 and run for a while and see what we can do at 5 watts. After all the contacts dry up, we can move up to full power. I suspect antennas will be a much larger factor at 5 watts than we are used to. Like we usually do we will have an alternative power station running to get that bonus.

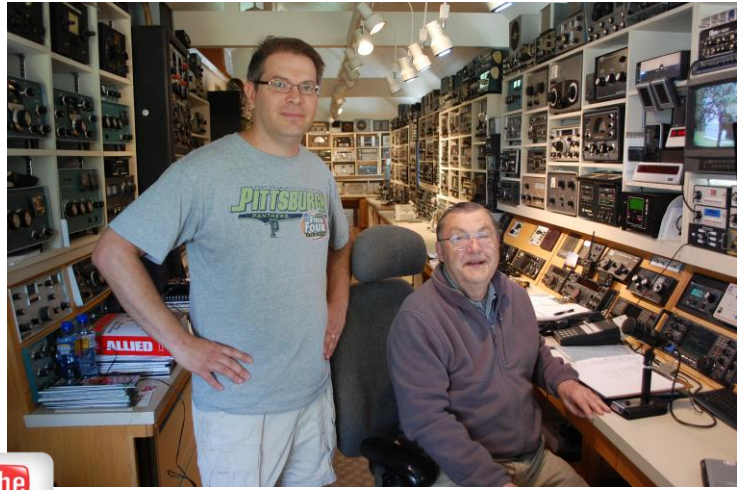
This Field Day will be well planed and documented well in advance of the actual Field Day weekend. I know the wind chill is -14, so June seems a long way off, but it really isn't in terms of planning. Over the next couple of months, if you could think about how you want to contribute to this year's Field Day, we would greatly appreciate it. We have spare radios and antennas on the CSU so don't let the lack of a radio deter you from participating.

February Program Sneek-peek

Join me for a rare opportunity to see the historic amateur radio museum in the making of all operational equipment, past and present. George Ulm, W9EVT has been a ham for over 74 years and has amassed a huge collection I had the opportunity to see with my own eyes. I took a trip to Washington Island in Wisconsin to see him and hear all about his collection and the endless knowledge of radio history he shared. Join me at our February club meeting to watch the entire video!

Here's a sneek preview you can watch...

http://youtu.be/_mRAb4C082o



YouTube

Kevin N9JPG

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

Public Service Update

We have been presented with a public service opportunity.

INDOORS!! Guarding doors, assisting with security and of course general communications relative to security for a children's wrestling meet.

We would be deployed Sunday, February 3, 0530 till 1430, at Lemont Township High School. Food will be available but will not be free. Sorry! Also, sitting may be limited. We will be using handhelds on 754 with backup on B1 or B2. If those are noisy, we will use channel 525. If you need a copy of the public service channel plan, or these designations make no sense, see my other article

We may use the Argonne Amateur Radio Club W9ANL repeater for talk in and other purposes if the need arises. Please program 145.19/-600 khz with a transmit CTCSS of 107.2 and carrier squelch receive. I will be securing permission from their trustee to make heavy use of their repeater system.

I became aware of this opportunity because my best friend's son (he calls me "uncle") is on the team hosting the meet. Please respond quickly so that I can prepare a plan for all of the volunteers.

73,
Steve Peterson - N9OA
Chairman
(630) 901-N9OA (6962)
n9oa@w9ccu.org



WCRA Public Service/Emergency Channel Plan



In order to best serve together as an emergency unit it is optimal that we all have the same frequencies programmed in our transceivers. I ask that you program as many as possible. Obviously, 440 fails to work in 2m rigs, you may not have enough room, etc. I distributed this two years ago and it seems appropriate to do so again. Please contact me with questions.

The first thing is our 2 2m repeaters called R1 and R2 respectively:
R1 145.310 out 144.710 in with a 107.2 Hz tone
R2 145.390 out 144.790 in with a tone of 103.5 Hz

If you have the ability, also program our 440 nacine as R3
444.475 out 449.475 in with a 114.8 Hz PL

In emergencies, repeaters are often down, so simplex is often used. We call our main simplex 754. Program 147.54 with no PL.

If that channel is crowded, or if we need additional frequencies, we have two backup simplexes. These are also splits off of the usual simplexes to further reduce the odds of congestion on the frequency. Program both carrier squelch.
B1 146.475
B2 146.505

Finally, I established a frequency for dealing with RF noise and for other purposes. It is called "Channel 525" on a frequency of 147.525 with a transmit and receive CTCSS tone of 100.0 Hz.

To reduce air time and to confuse would be jam manners, please refer to these as Romeo 1, Romeo 2, Romeo 3, 754, Bravo 1, Bravo 2, and Channel five two five. This is a concept borrowed from the Chicago Marathon, The Shamrock Shuffle and DuPage OEM.

Thank you for taking the time to program your radios -- especially with three new frequencies.

Steve Peterson
Amateur Radio Station N9OA
Public Service/Emergency Committee Chairman

QST Review

QST-February 2013

ISSUE PACKED WITH STORIES ABOUT LISTENING TO THE SUN



AND WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD OF HAM RADIO

If we could talk to Old Mr. Sun, we could ask him how his spots were doing, and get information about HF propagation easily. Since we can't, we have to use solar flux data. This month's cover shows some of the equipment used to tune in on what's going on. It starts on page 39 and has six more pages of photos and pictures of how this job is done. It is a complex story!

ALL-TIME HIGH IN U.S. AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES AS 2012 ENDS

The ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports that license holders now total almost 710,000 and "It is amazing to see these new numbers and to know that Amateur Radio is experiencing such a healthy trend."

THE AZORES NINE ISLANDS HUNT – AN URBAN DXPEDITION

An adventure of goodwill, good friends, and good DX is described in photos and maps on pages 72-75. It was put together by the Azores-Finland Friendship Consortium. Leading DXers in both countries worked it out and contesters around the world benefitted from their efforts to make contacts on these volcanic isles.

DISASTER ON LONG ISLAND REPORTED -- SANDY CAUSES HEAVY DAMAGE

Hams were out to help in a Hurricane Sandy hit in gives a first hand report—he photos. Hams not only disaster relief work. Pictures



three state area when October and Bill Myers, K2TV, wrote the story and took the worked the radios but aided in and story on pages 78-79.

LINCOLN , THE HIT MOVIE, FEATURES AUTHENTIC TELEGRAPH KEYS

If you saw the movie, you were looking at the results of Jim Wades, WB8STW, giving assistance to the producers of the War Department sets. Jim is President of the International Morse Telegraph Club. The story appears on page 85.

VINTAGE RADIO COLUMN FEATURES CLASSIC CONSOLE FROM THE FIFTIES

John Dilks, K2TQN, tells the story and shows pictures of one of the great stations from the past on pages 97-98. Bill Vandermay, whose last call was W7ZZ, was a wood craftsman, as well as an avid ham. They don't make them like that anymore!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

Hamfest Survey

Please take the following survey which will help us plan future hamfests. Your answers may be e-mailed to me at kb9rto@yahoo.com

Thanks and 73,
Kurt Rubin - KB9RTO
Amateur Radio Station KB9RTO
Hamfest Chairman



Name _____
Call Sign _____

Did you attend the Hamfest this year? Y/N

What did you like or not like this year?

Are on a Hamfest Committee? Y/N
If Yes What Club _____

Do you Like the Date? Y/N

Fourth Sunday in January Y/N

Do you like the venue? Y/N

Would you change the month? Y/N
If Yes When
February
March
Other _____

How many years have you been a Ham _____

What would you like to see next year?

Dear Ann Ode...

Dear Ann Ode,
Some birds just built a nest on my new Ringo antenna.
Will it ruin my signal?
Signed, Wondering



Dear Wondering,
No; you'll just have occasional chirp and flutter.

Dear Ann Ode,
I think the battery in my HT is sick again. What can I do?
Signed, Concerned

Dear Concerned,
Give it Tums. It probably has acid indigestion.

If you would like to ask Add Ode a question and seek her help, then send an email to her yourself at ann.ode@w9ccu.org

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 - Steve Peterson, N9OA
Vice President - Mary Tuohy, KC9IJO
Treasurer - Ken Kwasnewski, N9HQ
Secretary - Kevin Oleniczak, N9JPG
Custodian - Dale Kwarta, NJ9E

HAMLETTER

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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.