



HAMLETTER



Published Monthly
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 594 March 2013

Good Propagations

The February meeting had a good turnout and a lot of discussion on upcoming events. Joe N9WRO discussed a number of strategies for field day and Kevin N9JPG presented some highlights of his trip to see the amateur radio collection of W9EVT.



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Event Calendar



Next WCRA Meeting
3/8/2013 @ 7:30 PM

Chicagoland Fox Hunters
All Hunts Start @ 8PM
3/2 KMart Lot - Elmhurst
3/9 Downers Grove Golf Club Lot
3/16 Centennial Park - Addison
3/23 Thorndale & Irving Pk on WoodDale Rd

VE Testing
Lombard Library
3/28@ 6:30PM

2 Meter Net on 145.31 Mhz
Sunday Nights @ 8PM

Hamletter Submissions Deadline
4th Friday of the Month

Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS Monthly Membership Meeting February 8, 2013, 1930 hrs

OPENING

Call to Order	7:33pm
Opening Remarks/Announcements	None
Approval of Agenda	Motioned and seconded, approved
Introductions of Members/Guests	KC9IJO, NJ9E, N9JPG, N9HQ, W9DHX, WA9VAA, KA0DSF, NV9R, K9JWG, KC9KHT, AJ9M, KC9PWL, N9WRO, KB9RTO, KB9RCO, K9ILF, WA9ACO, N9HDW, K9UJL, N9CBA, KC9YEQ, W9BK, WA9FTS, KC9YFI, WB9SGD, W9NJM, W9MJS, N9MWF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 2013 meeting

Corrections/Questions	None
Approval	Approved

OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9OA)	Not present – elections coming up
Vice President (KC9IJO)	Program for this evening: Ham radio collection Future programs: march 8 th next month, Rick Jirza weather spotting
Secretary (N9JPG)	None
Treasurer (N9HQ)	Checking: report will be made available at the meeting next month Money Market: Donald Drake, K9VGN Scholarships Fund: 2013 Dues are due!
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	None

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (KA3HSW)	Tom shared an update that some of the unneeded repeater items that were donated to the club were sold at the hamfest.
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)	Thanks for the contributions
Website (N9WBW)	No report
Public Relations (W9UZ)	Mary noted that there was a group taking video at the hamfest that might be useful in future promotional work.
Club Awards (N9MWF)	No report
Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)	No report
CSU (N9MWF)	John gave an update on the leveling jacks that were installed. There was a NCS box (for receive audio switching) that was acquired at the hamfest for the CSU.
Interference (open position)	No report
Training (WB9SGD)	No report
VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)	Good turnout at the hamfest. Approximately 13 new hams.
[Meeting] Program (KC9IJO)	
Club Nets (open position)	Resuming this Sunday
Hamfest (KB9RTO)	Kurt gave an update that Elgin Community College did some interviews that we can put up on our club website. Still looking into moving the date and soliciting feedback from the vendors. Ken gave an update on the profit generated from the hamfest and it was a significant amount. Nice work Kurt and the helpers! Kurt motioned that money be funded for two years to extend the Don Drake fund. Discussion ensued about the background of the fund. Suggestions were to wait until we complete a budget assessment for the club. The motion to delay the decision was seconded and approved. Kurt also suggested that we make a \$50 dollar donation to the cub scout pack that attended the JOTA event in the fall. The
Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)	43 People attended the forum for the go kit. Dale sold 10 go kit boxes at the hamfest and the

Meeting Minutes (cont)

	profit was given to the club. Dale is looking for 5 volunteers to help build more kits. He also is interested to know who would be interested in buying when more are built.
Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)	<p>Joe gave an updated and discussed QRP options for field day. There was discussion that we should try QRP with some other events before to see how it works. He also suggested we look at running high power with linear amps. Joe also brought up the idea that we could possibly have it at his home where he has a few acres. Another suggestion was to emphasize the GOTA station as points are substantial. Another idea presented was to try a rotatable dipole.</p> <p>Joe asked for an allocation of \$1000 for field day. A motion for the budget was requested and seconded. Discussion occurred and questions were asked about whether the allocation was needed immediately and the answer was no. Given that we are seeking clarification on the budget, the motion was withdrawn until a later meeting.</p> <p>Joe also mentioned the need to provide a backup networking solution for the CSU on field day and use hard wired connections. An allocation of \$250 is needed to acquire cable and connectors.</p> <p>Joe is looking for volunteers to help test alternative power sources in preparation for field day. Mike gave an update that he is seeking alternatives the logging program.</p> <p>John suggested that we proactively seek scouts to join us on field day to help work stations and use GOTA.</p>
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	Dale asked if folks had suggestions for a new location.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	Approved
Hamfest volunteer prizes	A drawing was held to give prizes to those who volunteered at the hamfest.
WCRA Badges	Ken wants to know if anyone wants a badge? They cost \$7.
Membership Dues	If you haven't paid up, please do so now

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Membership Applications	None
Field Day Alternative Power (N9HDW)	Peter discussed options to generate power for field day with a bike and an alternator based on an idea found on-line. Discussion of ideas occurred to expand on the idea and see if there was interest.
Donation	Kurt made a motion to donate \$50 to the cub scouts who attended JOTA for ice cream. It was seconded and the motion carried.

CLOSING

Announcements	None
Guest Comments	None
Member Comments	Joe thought there might be an issue with the club repeater based on tests at home.
Adjournment	9:01 pm

Refreshments to follow adjournment

Program presentation to follow and concurrent with refreshments

The President's Corner

From the President's (chipped and and worn) Gavel...



As I sit here looking back at my initial term as president and a portion of the vacancy I am filing, and as I look forward to the remaining time until the elections, I ponder many things. I am grateful -- in a sense -- to have had and have the opportunity to revisit incomplete topics from my initial term. I appointed co-chairs for field day, and have had the opportunity to fill other committee vacancies that yet remain. I also am pleased to be discussing a budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year. The board has to fully consider revenue and expected revenue along with anticipation expenditures. I remain committed to the principle that no president should ever face the fear associated with presiding over the demise of our great organization. I expect to leave office with an executive-board elect which possesses the tools that they need to present a budget at their first monthly meeting.

The thing that is weighing heaviest upon my mind as I reflect upon my own thoughts for my remaining 39 days in office is who among us will succeed me as president and finish not only that meeting, but the remaining year of this term (The bylaws specifically state that in this situation an officer serves until the next general election). Almost equally as pressing is the need for volunteers to serve as Vice President and Treasurer from May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2015. Please see me if you are interested. I am also in need of a chairman to head up the effort of finding the three willing souls to give of their time and talents through the offices I have delineated in this paragraph.

Please don't read any of this as me retiring from club service. I look forward to my role as the club's most immediate past chief executive, and value my committee chairmanship as it reflects my favorite aspects of the hobby. I also await to fulfill the role as Field Day's "crapper coordination specialist" and to possibly fill other roles in that activity and in other key aspects of the club.

I remain committed as your faithful and devoted servant now and as I lead toward the future.

73,
Steve Peterson
Amateur Radio Station N9OA

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

I can't believe how time is flying. Although it is a snowy day when I write this I know spring is in the air and it will hopefully be a lot greener when we next meet. Since I've brought up the next club meeting let me give you a few important updates regarding that meeting.



Like last month, our meeting will be on March 8th a.k.a. the 2nd Friday of the month instead of the 1st. Hopefully we will be back in our normal room because I have a feeling we'll need the space. With spring/stormy weather around the corner, I have requested Rich Jirsa(N9RZX) to come out and instruct us on basic weather spotting. I know I am looking forward to hearing from him and learning how to spot and what to do when the weather suddenly turns on you.

Amateur Radio operators have a responsibility to provide effective communications especially when emergencies happen. In addition to the public service events that we provide communications for, we also operate a weekly Sunday net to help hone those emergency communications skills. The good news is that as I write this I have secured a steady group of Sunday Night net controllers and I am working on back up controllers as well. I am, however, looking for someone who could be the 5th Sunday night net controller when a particular month (like this one) has five Sundays in it instead of four. Please let me know if you are interested.

There is one more thing I would like to also write about this month: my position as VP. The club will be hosting its annual elections on April 5, 2013 and my position (along with president and treasurer) will be up for election. I've had a lot of fun trying to come up with creative and interesting club programs for you and I hope that I have served you well this past year. I wish I could continue onward for another two years but I'm afraid my life circumstances are preventing me from being able to continue onward as your VP. Please consider running for Vice President. The position can be fun and I know that the club is probably the most grateful to its VP because of all of the hard work they do for the club. If you want to know more about what I do, please email me at m2e1990@gmail.com

Until then, I'll see you in March.

Sincerely,

2013 Field Day Planning!

It has occurred to us that although we have been doing Field Day for many, many years we are never really been able to judge how well we succeeded as a club because we have never really stated what our Goals and Objectives for Field Day have been. So in keeping with our stated 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.

We propose we adopt the following Goals and Objectives for Field Day.

Mentor anyone interested in Amateur Radio:

- Provide a public information area concerning Amateur Radio.
- Maintain a staffed GOTA station with a mentor to allow members of the public to experience the hobby live on the air and to help train inexperienced amateurs on proper operating techniques.
- Provide at least one organized training session regarding emergency communications (i.e. build antennas, learn about nationally recognized operating procedures (NIMS), learn about message handling (including NTS)).

Prepare to assist in the event of a disaster:

- Practice establishing a base camp supporting multiple radio positions operating independent of any fixed infrastructure.
- Operate the Field Day contest to practice on air skills and develop new skills.
- Use Field Day as an opportunity to try new things.
- Practice working using the organizational structure, forms and nomenclature which would in place if we were deployed in a real disaster situation.

Participate in community events:

- Provide a public information area concerning Amateur Radio.
- Maintain a staffed GOTA station with a mentor to allow members of the public to experience the hobby alive on the air.
- Establish the Field Day site in a public area.

Promote camaraderie among our members:

- Members should check out all station positions and talk with members they may not have had much contact with.
- WCRA should provide good quality meals and should provide a single comfortable and convenient area for eating to promote camaraderie
- Take the meal times and other down time to network other members.
- Use the setup and teardown times as an opportunity to interact with other members; after all it is part of the process and not just a chore to be gotten thru as quickly as possible.

In addition for 2013 we purpose one additional objective:

- Focus on Alternative Power as an alternative to the traditional power distribution system normally used during prior Field Days wherever possible. In addition we should conduct a Proof of Concept of operating as class AB (battery power limit 5W all stations) for a possible future Field Day adventure.

At next month's meeting we will be passing around a list of positions that must be filled for the coming Field Day and will be actively and aggressively attempting to fill these positions. We have spare radios and antennas on the CSU so don't let the lack of a radio deter you from participating and don't feel you must commit the entire day. Even a few hours on 10 or 15M phone during the day will help. If you want to participate we will find a way to accommodate you.

Joe - N9WRO
Mike - KC9KHT



QST Review

QST/March 2013 "The Right Antenna Makes the Difference"
Issue

By Jim Ward, W9DHX



TWO TILTOVERS, VERTICALS, A DI-POLE, AND A J-POLE FEATURED

The tiltover is popular because it avoids climbing to get at the antenna; Bruce Belling, N1BCB, gives you one version on page 43 that suits his limited space problem and uses a boat winch to crank it up and down. Goeff Haines, N1GY, has a different way to tilt. On page 30 he shows how to start out with a stock trailer jack that he got on sale for \$18 and add on tubing and hardware to make an unusual mount and mast. You need your car to make it work!

Other antennas in the issue include a couple of simple antennas for 1200 MHz on page 37 by Canadian Don Dorward, VA3DDN. He uses short pieces of 1/8th inch brass rods and lugs to put together a small vertical and j-pole. Struggling with the problem of the wide band on 75 and 80 meters, Ted Armstrong, WA6RNC, shows how it can be handled with a two wire dipole. One is cut to 59 feet and the second to 66 feet and 10 inches. It is diagrammed on page 34-36.

HOW SMALL SHOULD A HAM SHACK BE?

The one pictured on page 69 was taken with a wide angle lens. It is 11 square feet. Stan Levandowski, WB2LQF, found a "nook" in a second floor master bedroom measuring 4½' wide and 2 ½' deep and squeezed everything in it. Stan and his wife live in a two story town home and the tale of how he got it altogether will amuse you.

"PEDESTRIAN MOBILE"—WHAT IS THAT?

Backpacking with an radio, WA3WSJ, tells his story of and mounting it on a some clamps to hold the for his power, and he was time assembling his parts



of course. Ed Breneiser, taking an ICOM 703 HF rig lightweight frame. He found remote in place and a battery ready to go. He had an easy (description starts on page 72)

and he gives a report of some interesting contacts while strolling. In just a few months he has worked 39 states and 10 countries.

RARE DXPEDITION OFF THE EAST COAST OF BRAZIL

The "How's DX" column this month on page 91 covers an unusual event on the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Rocks. Not only did the crew have to fight the elements of wind and wave, but also the Brazilian Navy. It is the site of a naval testing station, and the Brazilians wanted them off the premises in a hurry. Peace was declared when the hams donated their generators, chargers and batteries to the science project. They made 44,000 contacts in spite of their problems

Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,
I've heard several QSO's on 2 meters about astrology and how people of certain signs are more likely to get involved with particular hobbies or jobs.

What's the sign that most ham radio operators are born under?
Signed, Curious

Dear Curious,
"Delivery Room".

Dear Ann Ode,
I plan to take my new HT along on my honeymoon next month.
Do you think I will have much resistance from my new XYL?
Signed, Two Meter Addict

Dear Addict,
Only if you try to use it.

Are you having problems with your ham radio hobby?

Let Ann Ode help you solve them.
Write to Ann Ode 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

Newsletter Address:
Kevin Oleniczak
0N751 Woods Ave.
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
eMail: N9JPG.ham@gmail.com

Club Mailing Address: Wheaton
Community Radio Amateurs
P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
(630) 604-0157
wcra@w9ccu.org

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