



# HAMLETTER



Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 595 April 2013

## Good Propagations

Our March meeting was a real treat to have Rich Jirsa, N9RYX provide a basic severe weather spotting training class! Rich came prepared with a thorough slide presentation and an explanation of different forms of weather. We were trained and quized on what real severe weather looks like and on the best practices to follow in terms of spotting and safety.



## Inside...



- 1 Good Propagations
- 4 The President's Corner
- 5 The Veep Corner
- 6 Field Day Planning
- 9 QST Review
- 10 Dear Ann Ode

## Event Calendar



Next WCRA Meeting  
4/5/2013 @ 7:30 PM

- Chicagoland Fox Hunters
- All Hunts Start @ 8PM
- 4/6 KMart Lot - Elmhurst
- 4/13 Downers Grove Golf Club Lot
- 4/20 Centennial Park - Addison
- 4/27 Thorndale & Irving Pk on WoodDale Rd

VE Testing  
Lombard Library  
4/25@ 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 MARCH 8, 2013, 1930 hrs

### OPENING

Call to Order	7:31 pm
Opening Remarks/Announcements	None
Approval of Agenda	Approved
Introductions of Members/Guests	N9OA, N9HQ, N9JPG, AJ9m, KC9IJO, NV9R, W9LIW, WA9VAA, W9DHX, N9WRO, KB9RTO, K9JWG, KC9YET, KA0DSF, W9BK, KB9RCO, KC9YFI, KC9KHT, N9HDW, K9EFK, WA9ACO, K9ILE, KA3HSW, N9RYX

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 2013 meeting

Corrections/Questions	None
Approval	Motioned and Approved

### OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9OA)	No report
Vice President (KC9IJO)	Program for this evening: Severe Weather Spotting
Secretary (N9JPG)	No report
Treasurer (N9HQ)	Checking: Balances given Money Market: Balances given Donald Drake, K9VGN Scholarships Fund: 2013 Dues are due! Grace period ends next month.
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	No report

### REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (KA3HSW)	George reported some profits from the sale of items no longer needed
Questions & Answers	Jim asked if the repeater net mode could be enabled for the Sunday night net.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

<u>HAMLETTER</u> (N9JPG)	Nothing in particular to note.
Website (N9WBW)	No report
Public Relations (W9UZ)	No report
Club Awards (N9MWF)	No report
Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)	Steve is meeting with Special Olympics organizers to understand our role for this year. Our role in the MS Walk is also being assessed.
CSU (N9MWF)	Nothing in particular to note.
Interference (open position)	Steve described the role and asked if anyone was interested get with him.
Training (WB9SGD)	No report
VE team (NE9ET, de facto)	No report

# Meeting Minutes (cont)

rep.)	
[Meeting] Program (KC9IJO)	Nothing in particular to note.
Club Nets (open position)	Steve described the role and asked if anyone was interested get with him.
Hamfest (KB9RTO)	Kurt is working to put a 2 minute video that was produced at the hamfest on our club website.
Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)	Dale mentioned he has made some modifications to the kit and asked who from the club would also be interested in purchasing one. He's seeking help from others to build them up.
Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)	Joe and Mike socialized a proposed plan for field day based on emergency management methods (ICS). A comprehensive strategy is being pursued and you can look for which positions are open in the hamletter.
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	Looking for a place to party

## CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	None
--------------------------------	------

## NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Membership Applications	Tim Wheeler - KC9YFI and Earle Kuhn - K9EFK. Both motioned and approved.
Field Day Alternative Power (Joe, N9WRO; Mike, KC9KHT)	

## CLOSING

anchors	Joe N9WRO is looking to sell is Yaesu FT-2000. Joe mentioned he was going to look into having the club's Collins radio restored to operating condition.
Announcements	Joe N9WRO asked if anyone was headed to Dayton Hamvention this year. Bill Hollister is in the hospital and recovering.
Guest Comments	None
Member Comments	Steve reminded folks that club officer elections are next month. Let him know if interested.
Adjournment	8:17 pm



## The President's Corner



It is hard to believe that it has been one year since I wrote these words:

From the President's Worn Gavel  
Steve Peterson, N9OA

As I sit here writing my final article for the Hamletter, I ponder many things. First, I realize that this is my final opportunity to submit an article by the deadline that I instituted. Unfortunately, best intentions did not meet with reality. At a deeper level, I reflect upon those goals with which I began my presidential term. I am sure that I missed on many points, but I hope that I met my first goal of giving everyone a voice. I know that I streamlined the meeting. It may have been too corporate or by the book for some, but I do feel proud of the meeting format two years later and hope that you to appreciate it as much as I.

I am also mindful now of how dynamic a group this is, and am very thankful of all of the officers and committee chairs who stood by me and helped guide the club forward and along its mission. At the annual meeting on April 13, we will conduct elections and begin the transition of leadership for our club for the next year and beyond. To them and their posterity do I commit our destiny. I pledge to my successors and to his successors my support as a past president of the club, and I will advise them as best I can.

73,  
DE, N9OA. QRT

Little did I know then that I would actually be taking a four month break and that once again would I sit in the big chair. At our April 5 meeting, we will elect a president to finish this term, and we will elect a vice president and treasurer each for a full 2 year term. Please contact Jim W9DHX or Mark W9UZ to indicate interest in holding office.

As a note on the annual meeting, once the meeting is called to order, it is too late to renew for 2013. The grace period will have ended.

As I prepare to sign off (again), I wish the soon to be elected leadership success in their endeavors.

73,  
Steve

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

## The Veep Corner



My last month is finally here and I have a confession to make. I did not do as good of a job finding a club program for April (Reminder Meeting Date April 5th) as I have for the past 10 months or so, but to be honest with you, I think it would be o.k. to go without a program for April given what is coming up this month.

For starters, Joe (N9WRO) has a long proposal for field day this year that was published in the March Hamletter. He is eager to talk about Field Day and what we as a club can do to improve our Field Day participation. I want to make sure that I give him the time to talk at length and to have an appropriate length discussion about how we as a club wish to handle Field Day.

Secondly, the elections are also this month and I know they will take some time as well. Needless to say, I didn't want to disrupt or hurry those discussions as well, so naturally I want to make sure we have sufficient time to talk about who we feel would make a great President or Vice President or Treasurer.

Lastly, I know last month we cut it close to when we had to be out of the church. While I loved to hear Rich Jirsa (N9RYX) talk about how to precisely spot a tornado and how to make sure you aren't transported to Oz while looking for them. I know the church wasn't too happy with our dismissal time. They really do want us to be out of there no later than 9:30 p.m. so that their custodians can clean up our room and be out of there when they need to be at 10 p.m. This is just a minor FYI. Here's hoping to see you in April.

Mary Touhy  
KC9IJO  
Vice President

**NINETEENTH ANNUAL**  
**AES**  
**SUPERFEST**  
**APRIL 5th & 6th • 2013**

# 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.

Within the hamletter are positions that must be filled for the coming Field Day. Let us know if you are interested in helping with one or more 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



# An ICS Structure for Field Day

---

## Overview

This write up will document the responsibilities for each of the roles associated with the Field Day organization. Responsibilities for the position, before Field Day weekend, during the Setup, Contest and Demobilization Periods and Post Field Day are listed in a separate document. (Please note this is **NO** different than any previous document, only the names have been changed.)

## Command

### Incident Commander (IC) (Field Day Chairman) – Joe LeFebvre & Mike Wilson

- Responsible for general administration and planning for event

### Public Information Officer (PIO) – Mark Potter

- Responsible for communicating with the Public regarding the event, including:
  1. Preparing Press Releases
  2. Posting directional signage
  3. Preparing Informational Signage for Field Day

### Safety Officer (SO) – John Cheney

- Responsible for development of Site Safety plan and oversight of activities for Safety

### Liaison Officer (LO)

- Coordination with cooperating agencies, if applicable

## Operations Section

### Operation Section Chief (OSC) – Mike Wilson & Joe LeFebvre

- General supervision of contest stations, including interpretation of Field Day Rules

### Group Supervisor (Station Captain)

- Responsible for planning, staffing and operation of individual station
  - Grp 1 – 20M Phone- **OPEN (or maybe n9wro)**
  - Grp 2 – 40M Phone – Peter
  - Grp 3 – 40M CW – Mark
  - Grp 4 – Satellite – George
  - Grp 5 – Digital – Mike
  - Grp 6 – GOTA- **OPEN**

## Planning Section

### Planning Section Chief (PSC) – Joe LeFebvre

- Responsible for development of plans for event and general supervision of related units

### Resource Unit (RESL) - OPEN

- Responsible for tracking personnel assigned to event
- Maintains check in sheets for general assignments and distribution of check in sheets for stations

### Documentation Unit (DOCL) - OPEN

- Responsible for collection of complete documents from all units of event and maintains master file
- Responsible for completion of contest entry

## Logistics Section

### Logistics Section Chief (LSC) - OPEN

- Responsible for general supervision of related units

### Communications Unit (COML)

- Responsible for development of event related voice and data systems not involved in contesting.

### Supply Unit (SPUL) - OPEN

- Responsible for providing requested Club Equipment to units for use during event
- Coordinates acquisition of supplies required for event. Food acquisition can be shared with Food U

### Food Unit (FDUL) - OPEN

- Responsible for development of menus for snacks and meals
- Responsible for preparation of meals
- Responsible for requesting necessary supplies from Supply Unit

### Facility Unit (FACL) – Steve Peterson

- Responsible for acquiring necessary permission for use of Facilities
- Responsible for acquiring Facility related material by loan or rental

### Ground Support Unit (GSUL) - OPEN

- Responsible for installation and maintenance of necessary infrastructure

## Finance Section

### Finance Section Chief (FSC) (Club Treasurer) – Ken Kwasniewski

- Responsible for payment of bills approved for the event



## QST Review

QST Review/April 2013 "Happy Birthday" To 75-Year Old W1AW

By Jim Ward, W9DHX



ARRL BEGINS A CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS HAM RADIO STATION — IT WILL BE 75 YEARS OLD IN SEPTEMBER!

Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, Station Manager, presents a three page narrative and photo tour this month beginning on page 65. Readers who saw Peter Richey's (N9HDW) video tour from his visit there a few years ago, which was a Club Program, will remember the operating positions for this multi-station wonder. It is a reminder of how fortunate we are to have a "voice for the amateur" representing us here in the USA and around the world.

**"THE GARDEN BEAM" – NO TOWER NEEDED**

A 75 foot "sky hook" tall tower can cause a problem with neighbors and zoning restrictions. But George Wallner, AA7JV, decided he would plant an antenna in his garden and avoid difficulties. His "Garden Beam" is a new antenna that combines the gain of a Yagi with the low radiation angle of an elevated vertical. The idea was a result of research in preparation for DXpeditions. He wanted an antenna that would radiate over sea water and found one. If you have room for a garden, you have room for George's antenna described on pages 34-36.

**"MUTINY AT SEA" AND BECOMING "MAROONED IN PARADISE"**

For two hams celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary, Andrew and Kathy's plans didn't go as expected.

adventure this month on tradition, Andrew, AB7FS, and get back to their day jobs in photos, and a wild story to DX community with

Palmerston Atoll in the South Pacific.



You'll read about their rare pages 68-70. In true ham Kathy, KB7SCH, managed to Oregon, with some great tell. They also helped out the thousands of rare QSLs from

**A CHALLENGE TO QST READERS -- FIND THE APRIL FOOL ARTICLE!**

It has been a tradition of the normally "straight" magazine for the serious ham to insert a phony article in their April issue. Skillfully done, it looks very legitimate, right down to one tiny detail that gives it away. Just to be sure, I sent an e-mail to the QST editor. I received an e-mail reply—"If you have to ask" followed by a "smiley". Tell me at the April meeting if you found it.

## Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,

A nice fellow that I met on 20 meters sent me an e-  
QSL card and an e-Valentine.

What do you think about that?

Signed, Happy YL

Dear Happy YL,

That's a lot nicer than what I got from my guy for Valentine's Day: a box of e-chocolates.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Ann Ode,

I was originally going to write to you to congratulate your winning the "Female Ham Radio Operator of the Year Award"----

but then I saw an article in our club newsletter that you were convicted of bribing the judges.

What do you have to say for yourself now?

Signed, Disappointed former fan

Dear Disappointed,

It's not easy being a public figure. One week you're on the cover of "Time", and the next week you're doing it.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

Do you need help solving your ham radio problems?

Ann Ode can help you. Send her an email: [ann.ode@w9ccu.org](mailto:ann.ode@w9ccu.org)

## Tour de Cure

The 2013 Chicagoland Tour de Cure will be held on Sunday, June 9th. The TDC has outgrown the previous venue at Wheaton-Warrenville High School. Beginning in 2013 the start/finish will be at the historic (built in 1856) Two Brothers Roundhouse (formerly Walter Payton Roundhouse) in Aurora. Because the TDC is growing the need for additional volunteers is greater than ever. Both licensed hams for radio communications and non-licensed individuals are needed to fill various positions at rest stops and at net control.

If you, your family members or friends would like to help out please go to <http://goo.gl/yMngY> and register online.

## 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

#### 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.