



# HAMLETTER



Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 596 May 2013

## Good Propagations

At the April meeting, we heard from a number of members that were taking an active interest in where things were at with the club business which led to a few motions for action and clarity. Catch the meeting minutes for all the details. Officer elections followed after the nominating committee presented their candidates which were later voted in to lead the club.

President - Kevin Oleniczak, N9JPG

Vice President - Peter Richey, N9HDW

Treasurer - Carol Shroeder, KB9FYL

Secretary - Ken Kwasnewski, N9HQ (not pictured)



A special thank you to our nominating committee Mark Potter and Jim Ward.



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## Event Calendar



Next WCRA Meeting  
5/3/2013 @ 7:30 PM

Chicagoland Fox Hunters  
All Hunts Start @ 8PM  
5/4 KMart Lot - Elmhurst  
5/11 Downers Grove Golf Club Lot  
5/25 Thorndale & Irving Pk on  
WoodDale Rd

VE Testing  
Lombard Library  
5/23@ 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

Annual Meeting

April 5, 2013, 1930 hrs

### OPENING

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Call to Order                   | 7:33pm   |
| Opening Remarks/Announcements   | Welcome to the annual meeting. 2013 membership grace period has officially ended.  |
| Approval of Agenda              | Approved   |
| Introductions of Members/Guests | N9OA, KC9LJO, NJ9E, N9JPG, K9JWG, WA9VAA, W9LIW, W9DHX, KH9HEL, N9WRC, N9MWF, W9BK, KC9YF1, KC9KHT, KB9FYL, WA9EMO, N9HDW, K9ILF, WA9ACO and K9EFK |

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 2013 meeting

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Corrections/Questions |  |
| Approval              |  |

### OFFICER REPORTS

|                           |                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| President (N9OA)          | None                                 |
| Vice President (KC9LJO)   | Working on a program for next month. |
| Secretary (N9JPG)         | None                                 |
| Treasurer (N9HQ)          | Not present                          |
| Property Custodian (NJ9E) | none                                 |

### REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| RAB report (KA3HSW) | No report |
| Questions & Answers |           |

### 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)        | Thanks to those contributing articles!   |
| Website (N9WBW)                 | No report  |
| Public Relations (W9UZ)         | Working on an ad for field day   |
| Club Awards (N9MWF)             | No report  |
| Public Service/Emergency (N9OA) | March 21 starting at 7am. We will be using multiple-service radios. Looking for 5 additional volunteers. Our involvement in the MS Walk is not needed this year. |
| CSU (N9MWF)                     | No report  |
| Interference (open position)    | This position exists to help the general public with TVI interference and DF service if offenders to the club repeater.  |
| Training (WB9SGD)               | No report  |
| VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)  | No report  |
| [Meeting] Program (KC9LJO)      | No report  |
| Club Nets (open position)       | Looking for a coordinator to plan new nets.  |
| Hamfest (KB9RTO)                | No report  |
| Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E) | Parts for 17 go kits have arrived and Dale is organizing a time for those interested to help assemble them.  |
| Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)       | Joe N9WRO is getting us organized for field day and planning a conference call for those helping to meet and discuss details.                                    |
| Holiday Party (KA9RZG)          | No report  |

### CONTINUING BUSINESS

# Meeting Minutes (cont)

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

## NEW BUSINESS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Approval of Membership Applications                        | none  |
| Field Day  | Requested an allocation of \$1000 for field day. Seconded by N9MWF. Questions were entertained. The motion carried.   |
| Field Day  | Motion by N9WRO to allocate \$250 for wired networking CSU improvements as a backup for field day. Discussion occurred. The motion carried.   |
| Field Day Goals  | Joe N9WRO motioned that the 4 stated goals and related objectives for field day be adopted for the club for future field days. It was seconded by Jim W9DHX and approved by vote.   |
| Field Day Alternative Power (Joe, N9WRO; Mike, KC9KHT)     | Motion to adopt an additional goal to pursue a test station running on alternative power was made by Joe N9WRO. It was seconded and approved.   |
| By-laws Amendment Proposal                                 | Joe N9WRO motioned to explore the possibility of amending the by-laws to offer indemnification for director, officers of the club in terms of personal liability. It was motioned by Joe N9WRO and seconded by Jim W9DHX. Discussion occurred. The motion carried.      |
| Annual budget  | Joe N9WRO motioned that an annual budget be presented to the club each year and that the budget for this year be presented in September. It was seconded and passed.  |
| Club asset reporting                                       | Joe N9WRO motioned that the club asset inventory be made available upon request to members. It was seconded. Discussion occurred. The motion was defeated. An appeal requesting a hard count was made. The count was taken which was 9 yes to 7 no. The motion carried. |
| Repeater disruption during severe weather                  | Carol KB9FYL notified us that she will disconnect the club repeater from the antennas and power when severe weather occurs and will be restored once clear.   |
| Resignation of Secretary                                   | Kevin Oleniczak N9JPG has notified the board that he has resigned as secretary. Steve motioned that Kevin be secretary pro tempore. It was seconded and approved.   |
| Nominating Committee Report                                | The nominating committee made up of Jim and Mark presented four candidates for the officer elections.<br>Nominating committee report was motioned to be accepted, seconded and approved.<br>Motion to close nominations, seconded, and approved.                        |
| Election of Treasurer for the 2013/14-2014/15 term         | Carol Shroeder KB9FYL is nominated.<br>Motion to close the floor to nominations, seconded and approved.   |
| Election of secretary for the 2013/2014 term               | Ken Kwasniewski N9HQ is nominated.<br>Motion to close the floor to nominations, seconded and approved.  |
| Election of Vice President for the 2013/14-2014/15 term    | Peter Richey N9HDW is nominated<br>Motion to close the floor to nominations, seconded and approved.   |
| Election of President to complete the 2012/13-2013/14 term | Kevin Oleniczak N9JPG is nominated.<br>Motion to close the floor to nominations, seconded and approved.   |
|  | Motion to accept the officers by acclamation, was seconded and approved.  |

## CLOSING

|                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Anchors         |                              |
| Announcements   |                              |
| Guest Comments  |                              |
| Member Comments |                              |
| Adjournment     | Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm. |

## The President's Corner

I'm excited to have the opportunity to lead the WCRA as president and appreciate the trust you place in me to continue its long history. I remember when I attended the first meeting and the warm welcome I received from the members. I listened to others present topics on the activities they were doing with amateur radio which brought me back into this hobby I love.



My desire is to do the same for others by sharing my passion for the club and encouraging you to do the same. My focus will be on membership growth which will also include a youth training program. In this wireless high tech age and with all the interest in experimentation, there's no reason why amateur radio can't play a larger role for those interested. To do this, we'll increase the level of our promotion for meetings and events, establish training classes and re-connect with area hams. I look forward to your interest, involvement and encouragement with these goals.

As I worked through the transition from Steve, our past president to myself, I saw the opportunity to document and clarify all the different things that happen in the club and who does what. Together with the new exec board we refined an extensive list of responsibilities for board members, committee chairs and the RAB. We'll be sending it out for review and comment to make it even better throughout May. Looking back at the list we've created, there is a lot that happens to make the club "go" and appreciate all those that do their part!

## Upcoming Meeting Programs

Here's a look ahead to upcoming programs you won't want to miss at our monthly membership meetings.



5/3/13 Human and Solar Power for Your Field Day Station

-

presented by Al Sawyer K9ILF and Peter Richey N9HDW

6/7/13 WCRA Field Day 2013 Final Plans -

presented by Joe Lefebvre N9WRO and Mike Wilson KC9KHT

If you have ideas for a program you would like to see or share, please contact Peter N9HDW.

# Dayton Hamvention

WANTED - Hatennas pictures from Dayton

The few times I've attended Hamvention in Dayton, I made it a point to take pictures of the bizarre fringe attendees wearing antennas on their heads and backpacks. This really is the cherry on my ice cream if you will. Since I won't be attending this year, I would really like to see what I missed. Those that go, please send me a few snaps of the ones you see!

thanks,  
Kevin



## Wanted...

We are revamping a club brochure and are looking for pictures of:

The CSU deployed with the HF beam antenna on it.  
Other interesting pictures of the club interacting with the public (field day, JOTA, Scouting Camperall, Chicago Marathon, July Parade, etc)



## 2013 Field Day Planning!

When: June 22nd and 23rd  
Where: Panfish Park in Glen Ellyn

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



## Open Committee Chairs

We have a few open positions for committee chairman and the RAB. Please let me know if any of these interest you and what ideas you have for them?

Interference  
Club nets  
RAB

Please send an email to [kevinoleniczak@gmail.com](mailto:kevinoleniczak@gmail.com) by 5/10/2013 if interested.

## Get on the Air!

Museum ships weekend for hams is coming up on June 1st and the 2nd. This is a really fun contest to see how many historic naval ships you can work in one weekend. There are 80 ships participating this year and you only need to work 15 of them to get a fancy certificate for your effort. This will be my second year participating and hope to catch you on the pile-up!

0000Z June 1 through 2359Z June 2, 2013

<http://www.nj2bb.org/museum/>

Kevin - N9JPG



## WCRA Badge Redesign Ideas

As noted at last months membership meeting, the molds used to produce our current badge design (round with your name and callsign) are worn out and in need of replacement. After the meeting, an anonymous donor came forward to cover the cost to do so or to switch to a new badge design if we wanted.

The board took the opportunity to look at other design ideas that we might consider. Cost-effective designs are the rectangular shape as shown below which one vendor kindly mocked up for us as an example of what we could do. We are interested in your feedback and would like to know if you would like to continue to have the round style we currently use or switch to something new? Speak with a board member or send us an email if you have an opinion or idea.



# QST Review

QST May 2013 – Dayton Preview and Rare DXpedition to the Island of Cyprus

By Jim Ward, W9DHX



CAN'T MAKE IT TO DAYTON HAMFEST? GET A PREVIEW IN QST!

There's a special ad section this month at the back of the book. Starting on page 129 there are Exhibitors' ads for their Dayton specials. From rare antenna parts to hard-to-find cable, this is the place to find bargains.

ISLAND OF CYPRUS IS IN THE NEWS, AND ALSO IS A DXPEDITION SITE

A teen-ager from Bloomington, Indiana, is shown on the cover of this month's issue. He is Padraig Lysandrou, KC9UUS. An extra class licensee, he is 16 years old and president of his high school radio club. In a four page article beginning on page 65, he tells the story of how he became interested in getting his family to launch an expedition to the Mediterranean island that is a current political hot spot. Mother, Father, two sisters and the author made up the team, with each of them carrying all the radio gear in their personal luggage.

Luckily, the western portion of the island is Greek, with the rest Turkish. Since Padraig's father spoke excellent Greek, they were able to get operating approval. The Greek portion is a member of the European Union, which has favorable operating rules for Amateurs. partial to the "Buddipole" island's many hillsides. Their Yaesu FT 897, which was a for the trip. By the way, Mom The YL factor caused a pileup.



For antennas, the group was which could be located on the principle transceiver was the Mother's Day present selected is an extra, as well (KC9URR).

CUSTOMIZING A MOBILE INSTALLATION FOR A VINTAGE CORVETTE

When a Ham owns an '81 Corvette, should he rely on a handheld to be mobile? When Harvey Hutchison, NK0S, was having his car repainted, he took the challenge and decided to have a custom installation of a Kenwood 700A that had extended cables. QST Editor Steve Ford tells the story of how it was done on page 20. The big cabinet was cleverly hidden away, and a sturdy antenna was attached to the rear bumper frame area.

BACKPACKERS MAKE IT TO THE MOUNTAIN TOPS

Dennis Lazar, W4DNN, and his wife Ruthie, K4KLQ, are avid "low power" hams as well as enthusiastic backpackers. That's a great combination for membership in "SOTA". You've heard about "Islands on the Air" (IOTA). The acronym SOTA stands for "Summits on the Air." Their page 69 article tells about climbing North Carolina mountain peaks and making contacts from the summits. Their favorite antenna is a simple loop that can be rotated by hand. Read and enjoy.



## Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann,  
Your OM asked me to help him put-up a new tower on your farm. He said I should meet him in the cow barn. Will I have any trouble finding him?

Signed, A Willing Helper

Dear Helper,  
No problem. He's the one with the mustache.

Dear Ann,  
I sent-out dozens of QSL cards in the past six months, but have not received any. Do you know why mail delivery to my town is so slow?

Signed, Disappointed

Dear Disappointed,  
Yes. It's because your zip code is a decimal.

Are you having trouble with your ham radio hobby? Ann Ode can help you. Write to her at [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.

## New Hamletter Editor!

The hamletter is getting a new editor, Mary Tuohy KC9IJO effective May 1st. Send your articles for the hamletter to [m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com)

Thanks!

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### 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!

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#### WCRA Officers

President - Kevin Oleniczak, N9JPG  
Vice President - Peter Richey, N9HDW  
Treasurer - Carol Shroeder, KB9FYL  
Secretary - Ken Kwasnewski, N9HQ  
Custodian - Dale Kwarta, NJ9E

#### HAMLETTER

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#### 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.