



HAMLETTER



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Issue 597 July 2013

Good Propagations: Field Day 2013, A Weekend to Remember!



By Joe LeFebre N9WRO

I want to start off by thanking all who came out and helped or operated during our fantastic Field Day this year. A great time was had and many QSO's were counted. Despite having one less station than planned, mechanical problems to both RVs and rain that began when we started setup, everything got setup and we made more contacts than last year. We encountered numerous problems during the weekend: starter motor failure, generator failure, power cord failure, coax failure & rotor cable failure. The fact that we were able to recover from all of these failures is due in large part to the planning and forethought of both Peter's team and the CSU team.

Although many amateurs see Field Day primarily as a contest, I see it more as an outreach event and an emergency response exercise. We got a lot of foot traffic at our location and quite a few

questions as to what we were doing and what Amateur radio is about. It was good to see some kids getting on the air and giving radio a try, along with some adults as well. The kids are the future of our hobby, and I want to personally thank everyone who operated as a GOTA coach, helped answer questions, or invited someone out to the site who isn't licensed yet (and hopefully they will be soon). As a club, we also proved that we could come together with our resources and operate for a 24 hour period without reliance on existing structures or commercial power, all while working under the structure of the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS). I know there were some members of the club who were anxious about how the new structure would work and

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Event Calendar



- Sunday Nights [2 Meter Net on 145.31 Mhz](#)
- July 4th, 7 a.m-12 p.m. [Wheaton Independence Day Parade](#). Meet at the CSU which will be at 5/3 Bank, 1500 North Main St. Wheaton IL
- July 12th, [Next WCRA Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.](#) Topic- Interfacing the Arduino Microcontroller to the Motorola MSF5000 Repeater - presented by Doug Eaton
- July 22nd, [Hamletter Submissions Deadline!!!!!!](#)
- July 25th, [VE Testing](#) Lombard Library @ 6:30PM
- August 4th, 2013- [Club Picnic Herrick Lake, South Pavilion](#). Herrick Lake is located off the intersection of Butterfield Rd and Herrick Rd.

Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS

June 7, 2013, 1930 hrs

OPENING

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Call to Order | Called to order at 7:34 pm. |
| Opening Remarks/Announcements | Field Day will be tonight's presentation. |
| Approval of Agenda | |
| Introductions of Members/Guests | N9HQ, N9JPG, KB9RTO, N9OA, N9MWF, KC9LJO, N9HDW, N9WRO, K9JWG, W9UZ, KA9HEL, N9OA, KC9LJO, KC9YFL, K9ZL (Visitor), AG9M, WA9YQK (Visitor), W9BK, KC9KHI, WA9FTS, WA9VAA, N9DKO, WB9SGD, KB9YFL, KB9RCO, K9ILE, WA9ACO, N9CBA, KA3HSW, NJ9E, NV9R, KA0HSW |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Corrections/Questions | None |
| Approval | Approved |

OFFICER REPORTS

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| President (N9JPG) | Budget is being worked on. Committee chairs were requested to submit budgetary requests. |
| Vice President (N9HDW) | Field Day will be tonight's presentation as well as a video, "Amateur Kids in Action". August will be the club's picnic at Herrick Lake, South Shelter (the same as last year). |
| Secretary (N9HQ) | New member lists (hard copy) are available tonight at the meeting. They have also been emailed to all members. The 2014 CSU registration sticker was given to Joe (N9WRO). Receipt acknowledged by Joe (N9WRO). |
| Treasurer (KB9YFL) | Amounts were given. A new monetary reimbursement form is in the works. |
| Property Custodian (NJ9E) | A photo inventory of equipment has been started. |

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| RAB report (KA3HSW) | The 440 machine was power recycled and the hum now appears to have disappeared. The repeater's back up battery needs to be replaced. This affects the machine ID not being transmitted. Members were asked to ID using the club call until the backup battery is replaced. |
| 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 (KC9LJO) | Hard copies are available. June 24 is the deadline for the July issue. |
| Website (N9WBW) | None |
| Public Relations (W9UZ) | An article will appear in the Trib local as well as other local papers regarding field day. |
| Club Awards (N9MWF) | None |
| Public Service/Emergency (N9OA) | Wheaton's 4 th of July parade will be July 4. On June 19, there will be an informational meeting for members volunteering. A signup sheet was passed to the members. The Chicago Marathon will be October 13. More information will be passed on to members as it is received. The CSU was requested for both events. Tour de Cure is this Sunday. Several members will be volunteering for this event. |
| CSU (N9MWF) | A CSU work day will be tomorrow at Joe's house (N9WRO) in preparation for Field Day and this summer's other events. |
| Interference (open position) | None |
| Training (WB9SGD) | A tentative Technician class will be held this fall. |
| VE team (NE9EI, de facto rep.) | None |

Meeting Minutes (cont)

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| [Meeting] Program (N9HDW) | Volunteers are being asked to assist with future programs. |
| Club Nets (<i>open position</i>) | If any member is interested, contact Kevin. |
| Hamfest (KB9RIO) | Tickets and flyers will be out shortly for the 2014 Hamfest, which will be January 19, 2014. The 2013 Hamfest video is available and will be shown at an upcoming club meeting. |
| Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E) | 15 kits are available. Special pricing is available for members. Dale will be selling them at the DARC Hamfest. |
| Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHI) | To follow the meeting. |
| Holiday Party (KA9RZG) | To be determined. |
| Membership (open) | AC3Q and KC9ZDO were approved for membership. |
| | |

CONTINUING BUSINESS

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Questions for Committee Chairs | None |
| By-laws Amendment Proposal | None |
| WCRA Name Badge Designs | Alternative options were discussed. Member input will be solicited throughout the month of June. E-mail's will be forthcoming to members. A decision will be made by the July 12 meeting. |

NEW BUSINESS

| | |
|--|------|
| | None |
| | |
| | |

CLOSING

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| anchors | None |
| Announcements | None |
| Guest Comments | None |
| Member Comments | Tom N9CBA discussed some antennas he discovered at the Dayton Hamvention, that were produced via 3D printing. |
| Adjournment | Adjourned at 8:09 pm. |



Joe LeFebre (N9WRO) and Tim Wheeler (KC9FYI) Talk about the plans for Field Day 2013.



The Crew started early Saturday June 22nd as several members worked on putting up the antenna for Field Day.

Good Propagations: Field Day (Continued from Page 1)

and how it would change things, but I hope we all now feel more comfortable with it. If you are interested in learning more about ICS and NIMS for future field day activates or for EmComm/AuxComm activities, I encourage you to take IS100B and IS700 at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.aspx>. They are free online courses offered through FEMA.

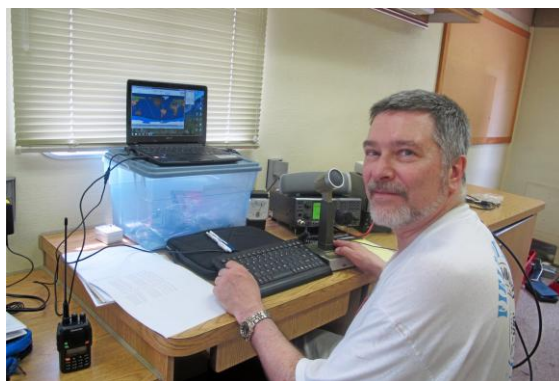
Now, I know that Field Day is a contest as well. Due to the deadline for copy, we do not yet have the absolute final numbers available yet but we do have a close guess. We made 749 contacts (of which almost half were two point contacts). Preliminary QSO counts: CW-177, Digital-186, Phone-361, GOTA-36. Bonus points around 1410. Estimated total score is 3612-3652 as 4A. Last year as 5A our score was 2224 so this year was ~ 64% better than last year. We had 14 visitors signed in on the visitors log and 8 GOTA operators.

One final thanks to our "Grill Master" KB9RTO for a fantastic job doing the steaks for dinner. KB9RTO grilled up 23 steaks for our members and friends. I think at one time or another we had 30 club members or their friends on the site.



Mark Potter (W9UZ) and Greg Schmit (WA9SGF) wait for signals to come to the CW tent.

George Henry (KA3HSW) searches for satellites inside his new RV.



President Kevin Oleniczak (N9JPG) helps to run the GOTA station as he shows Tim Wheeler (KC9FYI) and his son Mason how to get on the air.

Colin Oleniczak helps Peter Richey (N9HDW) find contacts on 40m



KB9RTO a.k.a chef Kurt Rubin prepares the steaks that club members ate on Saturday Evening.



Meanwhile Steve Peterson (N9OA) and John Cheney (N9MWF) make sure to stay hydrated in the hot June sun.

Lots of Club Members chose to eat their dinner next to the club's wonderful CSU



An FYI for those available on the 4th of July

For those that will be at home near the shack during the July 4th holiday, there is a terrific low-effort with high reward special event taking place called "13 Colonies Special Event". It's pretty simple. Just make contact with all 13 special event stations based out of each of the 13 original colonies and get a fancy certificate to put on your wall.

I participated last year and remember talking to one operator aboard the H.M.S. Bounty which was a tall ship replica. The operator shared a story about the history of that ship and suggested I watch the movie "Mutiny on the Bounty" with Marlon Brando from 1962. That was a really good show and little did we know that a few months later the ship would sink at sea as Hurricane Sandy moved in. You never know what you might discover with amateur radio.

The 2013, 13 Colonies stations will operate from 09:00 AM Eastern Daylight Savings Time (1300Z), on July 1st, to 12:00 PM (midnight) Eastern Daylight Savings Time, July 6 (0400Z, July 7) .

<http://www.13colonies.info>

Kevin - N9JPG



The President's Corner

As myself and the board look at the list of the items we want to focus on, it's apparent that the theme is preserving the WCRA for the future. It is an especially appropriate theme that includes sustaining current membership interest and also growing them. We have many experienced hams that have much to offer and who do so regularly in their own way. Each contributes to the life of the club through our meetings, activities and public service initiatives. Our passion and camaraderie help sustain our existing membership.

Growth in the club membership will help sustain us by introducing new enthusiasm and experiences to share with others. To do that we must advertise to the public what the club and amateur radio offers. When new folks visit, be certain to say hello and invite them to visit again with us.

Training and education is another key area that will drive growth and as we gear up for many changes in this area. As we refine our plan, I need your support with these initiatives and others to make them successful:

- Technician Level Training Classes
- JOTA for Boy and Girl Scouts
- Offer to be an elmer for new hams
- Radio merit badge counseling for Scouting

These are some of the items we are looking into aggressively which will offer opportunities for both adults and youth to get involved in amateur radio and our club. Look for planning sessions to be announced and join in on the efforts.

Also coming up is our annual club picnic. We've chosen to return to Herrick Lake again this year and hope you plan to attend!

Kevin - N9JPG

Meeting Topics-

"Programming the Motorola MSF5000 Repeater Using an Arduino Microcontroller" Presented by Doug Eaton

Plus

the "Ham Kids In Action" section of the program on July 12 will feature a video of a 15 year old who likes Satellite Amateur Radio and has assisted in running the radios in a school assembly where students contacted the International Space Station.

Peter Richey-N9HDW

QST REVIEW



By Jim Ward W9DHX

TERRORISTS' ATTACK MAKES 2013 BOSTON MARATHON NOTABLE

When Boston area Hams signed up to work on the Boston Marathon this year they had no ideas they would be at the thick of things at the Finish Line when the bombing occurred. More than 200 volunteers were in for a surprise and they performed with style. The story of their performance is featured on pages 65-67.

There is another feature on pages 77-79 with personal interviews with two hams that were closely involved with the action; one was a "starting line worker, the other was shadowing one of the race's officials. You'll enjoy their stories.

2ND RELAY MADE DRAMATIC WITH HAMS PUTTING LONG RANGE VIDEO ON AIR

What's a big race when nobody is there to watch the finish? Nothing. The Big Bend 50 Ultra Marathon is a world famous endurance race conducted near San Antonio, Texas, at Big Bend National Park. The problem is that the Finish Line is at an amphitheater which is "off-limits" due to environmental impact to the wilderness location in the Chihuahuan Desert. Spectators have to await the outcome of the race at a village about 10 miles away. A group of hams from Austin got the idea to deploy a high speed multi-media mesh network to broadcast the finish! Read all about their ingenious project on pages 68-69. The photo of the park is on the QST Cover.

"MURPHY BENCH" STARS IN ARTICLE ON HOW TO FIND MORE WORK SPACE

How many hams that you know take advantage of the family laundry room to make it their shack? I knew one—the late Bill Voegeli, W9JHV, who stacked his rig neatly above the washer and dryer. He was careful to vent the dryer output so no lint got into his gear. Vintage Radio Columnist, John Dilks, K2TQN, tells his story of his work bench that pulls down from the wall and also saves space and gets wife approval. Good photographs explain it on pages 96-97.

"APRIL FOOL" Q-POLE EXPLAINED; THE REAL PRODUCT

Did you notice the phony antenna in the April issue? In this issue the author comes clean and admits his folly. You'll find it on page 37. He says it really will work if you build it from this article. He is Erik Nichols, KL7AJ and his actual address is North Pole, Alaska!

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE BOARD: A Proposal for New Name Badges

At the June 5th club meeting a proposal was brought up for new name badges for club members. Below is the proposal for the new club name badge design. The board would like to hear input from the membership before voting on the new name badges at the July 12 club meeting. Please send your comments, opinions and suggestions to wcra@w9ccu.org before July 11th.

WCRA Name Badge Proposal - Vote for your preference at the July meeting or send an email to wcra@w9ccu.org by Jul 11th.

Option 1: Keep it the same



Option 2: New Rectangular Design



Optionally, each member can choose whether they want the ARRL logo added at no extra cost.

TECHNICIAN LICENSE TRAINING CLASSES- Planning Starts Now



We are beginning the planning phase for one or more fall sessions to guide new adults and youth in passing their technician class license exam. There are many items to consider and want to gather a core group of members to help plan out the training. Once plans are set, we will enlist the support of the members to help implement the plan. I will facilitate the planning for this year and see the need to meet in mid-July. The scope of our discussion will include:

How and who will we advertise to?

When and where will we meet?

What curriculum will we use?

How many instructors do we need?

Should we have demonstrations setup to spike interest?

Will there be a fee and if so how much?

Should we offer some type of reward for passing?

Will there be an active mentoring program for new hams?

This is just a sample of the items to discuss and need interested members to participate. If you are interested, please send an email or call me.

Kevin - N9JPG kevinoleniczak@gmail.com

Announcing-The Annual Club Picnic

Who: Club members and immediate families

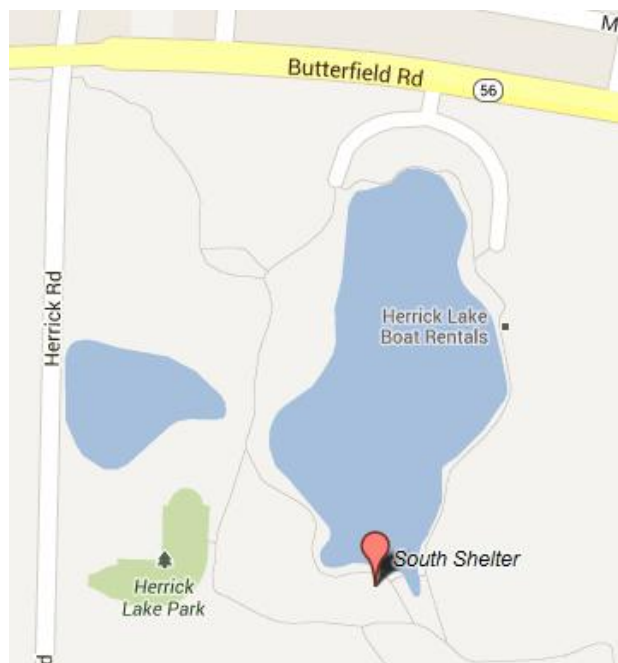
What: A potluck club picnic - Please bring a side dish or desert to pass. The club will provide soda, water and hot beef or BBQ chicken sandwiches

Where: Herrick Lake Forest Preserve 580 Naperville Road, Wheaton IL - We will be at the shelter on south side of lake (parking off of Herrick Rd.) Herrick Lake Forest Preserve is off of Butterfield Road and Herrick Road in Wheaton IL.

When: 8/4/2013 (Sunday) at 4 PM to 8PM

RSVP: Not required, but preferred.

Drive up access to the shelter is available for those that cannot make the walk. Ask the board for details or if there are questions.



Fox Hunt Reports For July

1st Sat Hunt - KMart Parking lot, Elmhurst, Rt 93 north of St Charles Rd - CFAR input 147.750MHz

2nd Sat Hunt - Downers Grove Golf Club parking lot, off Belmont Rd south of Odgen Av - Simplex 146.565 MHz

3rd Sat Hunt - Centennial Park, Addison, Rohlwing Rd, 0.4 miles south of Lake St - CFMC input 146.160 MHz

4th Sat Hunt - WoodDale Rd between Thorndale and Irving Pk Rd - Simplex 146.34 MHz

For further info contact Mike WA9FTS or call at 708-457-0966

Hunters gather about a half hr before the hunt. Everyone is invited to participate or ride along (call in advance). All hunts start at 8PM.

Dear Ann Ode...

Dear Ann Ode,
I heard that you can tell what our radio club's Field Day score will be even before the contest starts.
Is that true?

Signed, Skeptical Club Member



Dear Skeptical
Yes, it's true.
Our score will be zero before the contest starts.

Are you having trouble with your ham radio hobby? Let Ann Ode help you. Write to her at ann.ode@w9ccu.org

For Sale

GAP Titan DX vertical antenna for sale. Full coverage 40 - 10 meters plus 100 KHz on 80M, includes 2 cap units for different segments of 80. Purchased from a former club member and never put up. Asking \$200

2 double-sided 19" rack mount cabinets, 15 units high each side. Actual dimensions 29-1/4" H x 20-3/4" W x 26" D. Asking \$75 each.

George, KA3HSW

Email: ka3hsw@arrl.net

HAMFEST!!!!!!!

Save the date!!!! **January 19 2014**. Need Tickets?? See Rich N9DKO. Need Flyers? Come to a club meeting.

Kurt Rubin KB9RTO

I now have advance tickets for the 2014 Hamfest and I'm looking for ticket sellers. Anyone interested in taking tickets to sell should contact me via email at n9dko@arrl.net. Thanks.

73

Rich Bauer N9DKO



HELP NEEDED: JOTA TIME!!!!

Are you interested in helping scouts get more involved with ham radio? One way is to help them earn their Radio Merit Badge. Area scouts have several opportunities to attend merit badge classes as part of organized events on weekends. Ones I've seen recently don't offer the radio merit badge because no one has offered to lead it. The topics to be covered are easy (for licensed hams) to understand and can be a lead-in to getting them through an entire tech class. Here's a sample of topics to cover:

1. Explain what radio is.
2. Explain the difference between a DX and a local station. Discuss what the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) does and how it is different from the International Telecommunication Union.
3. Explain how radio waves carry information. Include in your explanation: transceiver, transmitter, receiver, amplifier, and antenna.
4. Find out about three career opportunities in radio. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.
5. AMATEUR RADIO:
 - * Tell why the FCC has an amateur radio service. Describe some of the activities that amateur radio operators can do on the air, once they have earned an amateur radio license.
 - * Using proper call signs, Q signals, and abbreviations, carry on a 10 minute real or simulated radio contact using voice, Morse Code, or digital mode. (Licensed amateur radio operators may substitute five QSL cards as evidence of contacts with amateur radio operators from at least three different call districts.) Properly log the real or simulated ham radio contact and record the signal report.
 - * Explain at least five Q signals or amateur radio terms you hear while listening.
 - * Explain some of the differences between the Technician, General, and Extra Class license requirements and privileges. Explain who administers amateur radio exams.
 - * Explain how you would make an emergency call on voice or Morse code.
 - * Explain the differences between handheld transceivers and home "base" transceivers. Explain the uses of mobile amateur radio transceivers and amateur radio repeaters.

In addition, as we look to the fall, JOTA may give us an opportunity to help teach the radio merit badge while having fun getting youth on the air. To be a radio merit badge counselor, you need to fill out an "Adult Application" which includes a background check and personal references. The process is simple and I can help you through it. Let me know if you are interested in joining me? I would like to have at least 2 additional volunteers.

Kevin - N9JPG kevinolencziak@gmail.com

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

Greetings !

The online registration for the 2013 Central States VHF Society Conference is now available. The 2013 Conference will be held near Chicago at the Elk Grove Village, IL, Holiday Inn from Thursday July 25th until Sunday July 28. This year's Conference location allows for free Hotel transportation to and from the Chicago-O'Hare Airport and has easy access from major interstate routes.

Activities begin with onsite check-in and registration Thursday afternoon with the offering of a trip to the Schaumburg Boomer's baseball game at 5PM. Friday morning's activities feature the Antenna Range (144MHz-24Ghz) measurements, Rover Row, Dish Display and Noise Figure Measurement Contest.

In addition to the world-class technical presentations on topics about activity on the amateur bands VHF/UHF and above; this year's conference will feature a return of the free-admission "VHF-101" introductory session on Saturday Morning !

For a up-to-date schedule of events please check the Central States VHF Society website at;
<http://www.csvhfs.org/2013conference/agenda.html>

The 2013 Conference is honored to welcome active VHF operator and CEO of the American Radio Relay League, Mr Dave Sumner, K1ZZ as the Saturday Banquet speaker. This will be a presentation you will not want to miss !

The Family Program includes the Schaumburg Boomer's baseball game on Thursday evening, a Friday trip to downtown Chicago's famed Michigan Avenue Shopping District and a Saturday bus trip to the Chicago Museum Campus that includes the Field Museum of Natural History, the Adler Planetarium, the John G Shedd Aquarium and the Chicago Museum of Modern Art.

This year we will be offering a (free) Sunday tour of the Fermilab National Accelerator in Batavia Illinois. There will be a group car-pool from the Hotel at 10AM Sunday and although there is no bus transportation arrangements can be provided for the return trip to O'Hare airport after the tour. This tour will present a glimpse into the hardware behind the scenes in the world of High Energy Physics. Included will be a short stop by the superconducting RF laboratory - where the RF is REALLY cool... A pair of comfortable walking shoes is suggested for the 3 hour tour. The Central States VHF Society registration page can be found at :

<http://www.csvhfs.org/2013conference/2013Registration.html>

Reservations for the Elk Grove Village Holiday Inn 1000 Busse Rd, Elk Grove Village Illinois can be made using the special reservation group code " VHF"

by **calling (800) 972-2494** or by using the web link;

<http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/elk-grove-village/chieg/hoteldetail?groupCode=VHF>
The special group rate for the Conference is \$95 per night.

Should you have any questions, problems or special requests please do not hesitate to contact the 2013 Conference Chairman directly by email at W9XA@arrl.org

Please make early plans to attend. We look forward to seeing you in July for the 2013 Central States VHF Society Conference near Chicago !

For the 2013 CSVHF Committee-
73, Kermit Carlson W9XA

CQ Hamletter Contributors

Wow, I can't believe half of 2013 has gone by. I know my first Hamletter of 2013 wasn't the best but hopefully you will see that the July Hamletter is a great improvement over June. I want to especially thank my Field Day Photographers Jim Ward (W9DHX) and Mark Potter (W9UZ) for sending me dozens of photos to look through for the July edition of the Hamletter. I wish I had the space to print them all but if I did, I'm afraid the size of the newsletter wouldn't fit in most members' inboxes.

Now as to the usual guidelines for Hamletter submissions- I'm willing to accept anything that is club and/or ham radio related but inclusion in the Hamletter will depend upon the space I have and the importance of the article submitted. Please try and get your submissions in by the deadline (July 22nd) otherwise I might not be able to include it in the next edition of the Hamletter. I'll take the articles in any format you wish to submit and yes, I would love to have lots and lots of submissions from you, my fellow club members.

If you have any questions about the Hamletter contact me at m2e1990@gmail.com

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 - Kevin Olencziak (N9JPG)
Vice President- Peter Richey (N9HDW)
Treasurer- Carol Schroeder (KB9FYL)
Secretary- Ken Kwasniewski (N9HQ)
Custodian- Dale Kwartka (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.