



HAMLETTER



Published Monthly
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 598 August 2013

GOOD PROPAGATIONS: CLUB PICNIC

Who: Club members and immediate families

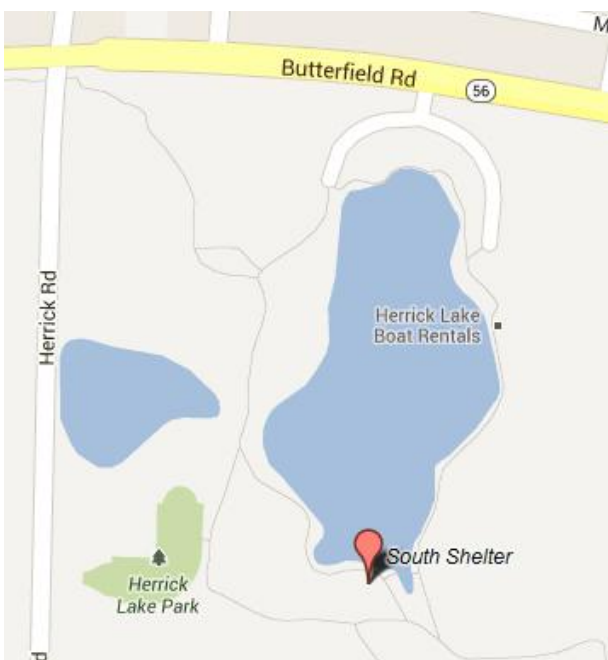
What: A potluck club picnic - Please bring a side dish or desert to pass. The club will provide soda, water and hot beef or BBQ chicken sandwiches

Where: Herrick Lake Forest Preserve - Shelter on south side of lake (parking off of Herrick Rd.)

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 N9HDW or a member of the board for details or if there are questions.



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[CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!](#)

Event Calendar



August 2nd-NO MEETING

August 4th,
Club Picnic,
Herrick Lake

Sunday Night Nets

Aug 4th- No Net
Aug 11th W9DHX
Aug 18th KA3HSW
Aug 25th W9BK

August 7th-WCRA
Board of Director's
Meeting

August 22nd Hamletter
Deadline

Aug 29th, VE Testing

Sept 6th, Next Club
Meeting,

Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS

July 12, 2013, 1930 hrs

OPENING

Call to Order	Called to order at 7:34 pm.
Opening Remarks/Announcements	Welcome members and guests.
Approval of Agenda	Approved. No corrections.
Introductions of Members/Guests	N9HQ, N9HDW, KC9LJO, KB9RTO, W9DHX, KC9KHT, W9UZ, KA0DSF. N9CBA, KB9FYL, N9JPG, KA3HSW, K9JWG, N9MWF, WA9FTS, AJ9M, W9NJM, KC9ZDO

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

Corrections/Questions	No corrections.
Approval	Approved unanimously.

OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9JPG)	Welcome.
Vice President (N9HDW)	Silent key, Richard Potter, a ham and member of the First Presbyterian Church. August's meeting will be the picnic at Herrick Lake. September's meeting will have a discussion regarding DX.
Secretary (N9HQ)	Membership rosters are available. E-mail N9HQ any updates. Facebook page is up with FD pictures as well as Wheaton Independence Day photos.
Treasurer (KB9FYL)	Balances were given. Carol has new expense reports to be filled out for reimbursement.
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	A Go Box has been completed for the club. The radio was a donation from Vicki. The box and its construction were donated by Dale.
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Meeting Minutes (cont)

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (KA3HSW)	The .39 repeater was put on the air for the Wheaton Independence Day parade. George is requesting photos/documents to bolster the club's dependence on getting our .39 repeater antenna back up on the COD tower. He would like them ASAP.
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 (KC9IJO)	None
Website (N9WBW)	None
Public Relations (W9UZ)	None
Club Awards (N9MWF)	Deferred to new business portion of the meeting.
Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)	An honorarium will be forthcoming from the Wheaton Parade organizers.
CSU (N9MWF)	When the CSU is used, please clean it up after use. If something is damaged or not stowed correctly, please let John or Joe know to prevent further damage. A public address system is being designed for onlookers. A training program is also in the process of being designed for club members. A brief discussion of the power cord from the generator to the CSU was had.
Interference (<i>open position</i>)	None
Training (<i>open</i>)	A fall Tech class is being organized. See Kevin for details or assistance.
VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)	The VE team is looking for volunteer examiners.
[Meeting] Program	Tonight's meeting will be about the Arduino

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

(N9HDW)	microcontroller. There will be NO August meeting. Our club picnic will be held on 8/4/13 from 4-8pm at Herrick Lake. September's meeting will be regarding DX.
Club Nets (<i>open position</i>)	Net Control Operators are needed. See Kevin.
Hamfest (KB9RTO)	2014 flyers have been printed and are available. New vendors are being solicited. January 19, 2014, is the date. More details will be forthcoming near September or October.
Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)	The Rockford Area Skywarn people are very interested in the kit. Dale has left several of the boxes with Harold for possible sales.
Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)	Over 700 contacts were made. Point submission to the ARRL will done within the next two weeks. Thanks go out to Mike, Joe and Kurt for a great job. Clap clap clap...
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	None
Membership (open)	None

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	None
By-laws Amendment Proposal	Being looked into.
WCRA Name Badge Design Vote	<p>Keep Old or Go with the New Design</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p>A brief financial discussion was had regarding the costs involved. An anonymous donor will</p>

Meeting Minutes

	cover the costs of the new design. A vote was taken. Old Name Badge 5. New Name Badge 12. The New Name Badges have been voted in. More information to come.
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NEW BUSINESS

WCRA Picnic in August	August 4, 2013...Herrick Lake South Pavilion...4-8 pm
Award Presentation	Steve/N9OA Past Presidents Award (2012-2013), Mary/KC9IJO Past Vice President's Award (2012-2013), Kevin/N9JPG Past Secretary's Award (2012-2013), Ken/N9HQ Past Treasurer's Award (2005-2013)

CLOSING

Anchors	None
Announcements	Thanks to all of the volunteers, Captains, and organizers for their Field Day help.
Guest Comments	None
Member Comments	Joe/N9JPG made his first HF contact recently.
Adjournment	Adjourned at 8:24 pm.



Doug Eaton, a former Motorola engineer spoke about controlling the Motorola MSF5000 repeater with an Arduino Micro-controller. The MSF5000 is no longer in production, but can be found on the used market. It makes a great ham repeater, but add on controllers are needed to give hams the type of control they want. Much of this control can be provided by the Arduino which is inexpensive, less than \$35, and very easy to get, and totally programmable to do whatever you want it to do.

Doug demonstrated interfacing with the Data bus in the MSF5000. He is also working on a DTMF Decoder which would allow remote control of many functions in the MSF5000.

Doug would be interested in getting a group project together to expand this. Anyone interested could contact Doug via email at doug@predicate.org.





The President's Corner

Members:

This past months meeting was a treat with a variety of program material to enjoy. Peter(N9HDW) has been doing a great job bringing a nice mix of topics to learn and enjoy from at the meetings and I encourage you to join us if you haven't in awhile.

Carol(KB9FYL) is diligently putting together our club annual budget to be completed this fall. If you are a committee chair, please take the time to get your needs documented and over to her for the next 12 months.

I encourage you to attend our annual membership picnic on Sunday, August 4th. The details are in the hamletter and I look forward to seeing you there.

I hope your summer is progressing in a fun and eventful way!

73's

Kevin - N9JPG

MEETING TOPICS

Upcoming WCRA Club Meeting Programs:

August: Club Picnic on Sunday August 4, 2013 (at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve) (NO club meeting on Friday August 2, 2013.)

September 6, 2013 (Friday after Labor Day): DXpeditions - Their Allure and Benefit, presented by the Northern Illinois DX Association

Thanks

Peter N9HDW



Reminder to all hams to join in the fun on HF for the annual International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. This year's event - 17-18 August 2013 - Duration 48 hours from 0001 UTC 17.8.2013

<http://illw.net/>

QST REVIEW



BLUETOOTH ADAPTOR FOR YOUR MOBILE RADIO?

You may have thought of this yourself. However, Allen Baker, KG4JJH, not only thought of it he made the connection and authored a three and a half page article on how to be hands free and hamming. He also likes it for contesting as well. It begins on page 30 and has the dramatic cover illustration position.

RECREATE THE EXCITEMENT OF DAYTON'S HAMVENTION OF 2013.

"Dayton 2013" lives again in a four page recap) of the Annual blow-out, showing the crowds and new products on display. (Pgs 58-61) Dick Isely, W9GIG, our own ARRL Central Division Director is involved in one of the photographs on page 59. He is presenting a scholarship award. Dick writes a monthly newsletter and also is the ARRL Scholarship Chairman.

GOING TO THE EXTREME TO GET THE LAST SOUTH AMERICAN "IOTA" CALL

Escondida Island is off the coast of Patagonia and the 99th and last "Islands on the Air" target on the South American continent. It is halfway between Buenos Aires and the tip of South America. It is also the home of a colony of sea lions. The article's author, Cezar Trifu, VE3LYC, tells a fascinating story of support by Argentinean, Canadian, and German IOTA groups and individuals that made this unusual venture possible. There are great photos of sea lions observing the team setting up their gear. The article begins on page 62.

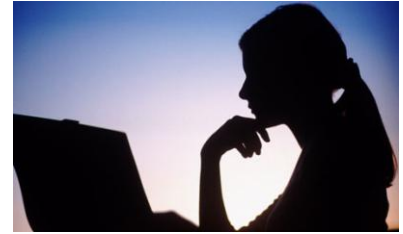
TAKE A COURSE IN "RAGCHEWING 101."

ARRL Life member Mike Pulley, WB4ZKA, thinks that a QSO should be more than a "RST-73" exchange. He feels meeting a stranger on the air, sharing common interests, and lingering a while, should be an art. For those of us who don't know "what to say", Mike takes page 65 to give a suggestion or two on being a good conversationalist. One of his props is a good map in order to locate the other person's home town. Here's hoping you get a good grade on the Test!

NEW HARRISON FORD MOVIE FEATURES HALLICRAFTERS VINTAGE GEAR.

"Paranoia" is the name of a Hollywood production, and the equipment will have a three minute cameo appearance. John Dilks, K2TQN, conductor of his Vintage Radio Column on pages 97-98, tells the complex story of how the gear was selected for the appearance. The move is scheduled for release on August 16th.

Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,

I have a 2 meter rig that works normally sometimes and is full of noise and static at other times.

What should I do?

Signed, Non-Technical Ham Op

Dear Non-Technical,

The next time it works normally, SELL IT.

TIME FOR 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 seller. Anyone interested in taking tickets to sell should contact me via
email at n9dko@arri.net. Thanks.

73

Announcing Board of Director's Meeting

On Wednesday 8/7 at 7PM there will be a WCRA board meeting for
officers. Members are invited to attend the first portion of the agenda where we
will discuss the topic of youth and ham radio. We are interested in choosing a
few items to focus on where we can make amateur radio and electronics better
known to youth. Examples are; JOTA, Radio Merit Badge Counseling, and a
fun you-build-it project for the Hamfest. If you are interested in this topic,
please join us for the first 30 minutes of the meeting. The meeting will be held at
Peter Richey's home (address in the roster).

Kevin N9JPG
President WCRA.

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

A buddy of mine is trying to find a new home for a very clean Heathkit HX-10 Marauder (180-watts, transmitter only). He received it from a ham who has terminal pancreatic cancer and wanted to see this go to a good home before he passed on. This is a very heavy unit. My buddy has not tried to fire up the radio but has been assured that the radio is in good working condition. He has the desk microphone, AC power cord and owner's manual. If someone is into or collects Heath equipment this very, very clean radio would be an excellent addition and the price is right....free.

if you're interested please contact George Tasson, KC9UIU at gtasson@sbcglobal.net.

'73

Rich Bauer N9DKO

Fox Hunt Reports For August

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.

WCRA in the Community



14 club members plus four members of DuPage ARES helped out at Wheaton's annual 4th of July parade. Steve (N9OA) once again mobilized the club to cover all corners of the parade as well as the main staging area and the reviewing stand.

John (N9MWF) coordinates with parade staff at the beginning of the parade



Dale talks up parade floats with event staff.

CQ Hamletter Contributors

Well I hope everyone has fun at the club picnic and of course I'll remind everyone of the deadline for the next Hamletter- August 22nd. I have just a few requests of you when it comes to your submissions.

First of all 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. (For example an article about our Hamfest might go in before an article about a club member on a DXpedition). Please try and get your submissions in by the deadline 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. Or call me at (630)222-9732

WCRA General Membership Meetings

WCRA meets on the first Friday of the month most months at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton IL at 7:30 p.m. The club 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 break is followed by an amateur radio related program. We would like to see you there to share the enthusiasm. If you want to join WCRA, visit our website at www.w9ccu.org to get the application to 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 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.