



# HAMLETTER



Published Monthly  
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
Issue 600 October 2013

## Good Propagations JOTA!!!!

## GET ON THE AIR!

with the...

**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs**

You're invited to the annual  
**Jamboree On the Air (JOTA)**

Jamboree On The Air or JOTA is the world's largest scouting jamboree with over 700,000 scouts participating worldwide each year. This event lets scouts get on the air waves to talk with other scouts with the help of amateur radio operators. It lasts for 48 hours and provides a great sampling of all the fun you can have with ham radio while also demonstrating the many facets of the hobby and its practical use in an emergency situation.



**Where:** Blackwell Forest Preserve Youth Camp (off of Mack Rd)

**When:** Saturday 10/19 from Noon to 7PM

**What you'll see:** Amateur radio operators from the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs club assisting scouts get on the air. Long-range radio contacts will be made with hundreds of other scouts from around the world! .

**What you'll learn:** Experience principles of radio communication (different antennas, modes and radio bands, amateur satellite and amateur TV demonstrations. Find out if you're interested in pursuing the Radio merit badge on November 2nd.

**CQ JOTA,  
CQ JOTA,  
CQ JOTA...**



If you wish to contact us...  
e-mail: [wcra@w9ccu.org](mailto:wcra@w9ccu.org)  
web: [www.W9CCU.org](http://www.W9CCU.org)  
phone: 630-604-0157



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### Event Calendar



Sunday Night Nets-  
Oct 6th-N9JPG  
Oct 13th-W9DHX  
Oct 20th-KA3HSW  
Oct 27th-TBA

Oct 4th-Monthly  
Meeting-First  
Presbyterian Church-  
Topic-Smart Phone  
Radio Apps

Oct 13th- Chicago  
Marathon

Oct 18th-DEADLINE-  
HAMLETTER!!!!!!

Oct 19th-12 p.m.- 7  
p.m. - JOTA!

Nov 1st- Monthly  
Meeting-Topic-Club  
Auction!!!

# Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS

September 6, 2013, 1930 hrs

## OPENING

Call to Order	Meeting called to order by N9JPG 7:36 PM
Opening Remarks/Announcements	
Approval of Agenda	Approved
Introductions of Members/Guests	25 present: AJ9M, N9CBA, KC9IJO, W9DHX, KA0DSF, WA9VAA, W9UZ, KC9ZLS, 4 children, KB9RTO, K9JWG, N9MWF, KC9YFI, NV9R, WA9SGF, K0TRM, K9ILF, WA9ACO, NJ9E, N9HDW, N9JPG, KB9FYL

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting 7/12/2013

Corrections/Questions	As printed in the September 2013 Hamletter.
Approval	Approved

## OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9JPG)	Annual budget will be presented tonight. Lots of activity. Many events. Looking for volunteers for VEC, especially Extra class licenses.
Vice President (N9HDW)	Upcoming programs. Looking for volunteers for program committee. Tonight's Program: DXing.
Secretary (N9HQ)	Per N0JPG, Ken N9HQ is absent. In hospital for observation.
Treasurer (KB9FYL)	No report, left notes at home.
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	No report

## 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.*

HAMLETTER (KC9IJO)	Deadline is 9/26/2013 for next issue. W9DHX expressed compliments on nice issue this month.
Website (N9WBW)	Per N9JPG, many updates on ongoing basis. Tom absent
Public Relations (W9UZ)	No Report
Club Awards (N9MWF)	No Report
Public	Per N9JPG, Steve N9OA absent. Chicago marathon is


## MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

Service/Emergency (N90A)	10/13/2013. Chicago Marathon leadership has provided very little information so far. N90A is going forward with WCRA participation planning. N90A is looking for volunteers. Let Steve N90A know if you have been received registration confirmation for marathon from Rob Orr. 3 as a person or as a club helping at the Marathon.
CSU (N9MWF)	N9MWF: There will be a minor cleanup of the CSU before Chicago Marathon. Date TBA. Will email date when set.
Interference ( <i>open position</i> )	
Training (open)	Kevin N9JPG is interim lead for training: tech class will be in Feb/Mar 2014 timeframe to build up attendance. Date to be set within 2 months.
VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)	Per Kevin N9JPG, looking for other extra class ope
[Meeting] Program (N9HDW)	Lots of detail on coming meetings through Jan 2014: Oct 2013 – Smart Phone Amateur Radio Apps, presented by Mike Wilson KC9KHT (Android OS phones) locally, and possibly John Faber WT9Y (iOS phones) remotely via Skype from North Carolina; Nov 2013 Auction, Dec 2013 Holiday Party, Jan 2014 Hamfest Final Prpeartions, led by Kurt KB9RTO. N9HDW is seeking additional volunteers for the Program Committee which he thanked for doing an excellent job. Also looking for leads on program presenters and topics. Contact N9HDW with such leads or ideas.
Club Nets ( <i>open position</i> )	Some Sunday evening NCO (Net Control Operator) slots are open. See ary KC9IJO for volunteering.
Hamfest (KB9RTO)	Jan 18,19, 2014 There will be a hamfest
Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)	Go Kits are kind of stalled. NJ9E cannot go to Radio Expo 9/7/2013, nor can AC3Q. NJ9E wants to get more info on web site for Go Kits and in Hamletter. NJ9E will provide newsletter article.
Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)	No report
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	Via NJ9E: There will be a party. Date and place TBA
Membership (open)	Newly licensed Sheryl Oleniczak KC9ZLS, technician class,. moved by N9MWF and 2 <sup>nd</sup> by KC9IJO. Welcome Sheryl! She has signed up for Holiday Party Committee. New member approved.

### CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	Hamletter – some members have not gotten Hamletter thru members@w9ccu.org. Kevin N9JPG will forward list
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## MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

	<p>of bounced or missing emails to Mary KC9IJO, to establish alternate way to get Hamletter to those folks.</p> <p>NJ9E suggested we send Hamletter condensed version to all hams in the area by email, not just club members.</p> <p>N9MWF email suggestions and Q's: He offered idea that w9ccu.org sending so many copies to so many members that recipient servers may be blocking inbound as spam.</p> <p>CSU: N9JPG offered suggestion to consider advancing the inventory project when cleaning up for Chicago Marathon.</p>
<p><b>By-laws Indemnification Amendment Proposal</b></p>	<p>N9HDW working this to contact attorney Jim O'Connell W9WU to see if he'll review proposal.</p> <p>Seeking other attorney suggestions to consider. KB9RTO offered George Nixon N9EJS.</p>
<p><b>WCRA Name Badge – Personal Info is due</b></p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Signup sheet passed around the mtg tonight. Last call for personal options to be submitted.</p>
<p><b>Annual Budget Review</b></p>	<p>Carol KB9FYL: Members, committee chairpersons are to give any feedback or changes, or corrections for the budget, to Carol by 9/19/2013 so Executive Board can digest the input and put together final budget plan for approval by club 10/4/13. Also: deadline for turning in receipts is 90 days after one's expenditure.</p>

### NEW BUSINESS

<p><b>Auction for November Meeting?</b></p>	<p>Per poll of members present, we will have an auction instead of a program presentation. All are encourage to bring radio and computer related items for sale, not freebie exchange. Colin Oleniczak offered to be our auctioneer.</p>
<p><b>Radio Scouting Budget Allocation Request?</b></p>	<p>N9JPG: 11/2/2013 Radio MB class 5 hrs. Where: Wheaton Police Dept.</p> <p>Allocation: venue costs, brochures, printing, etc: \$150 motion by Mary KC9IJO, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim KC9YFI. Kurt KB9RTO suggested Steve N9OA be contacted for hamfest ticket printer who might print material for class.</p>

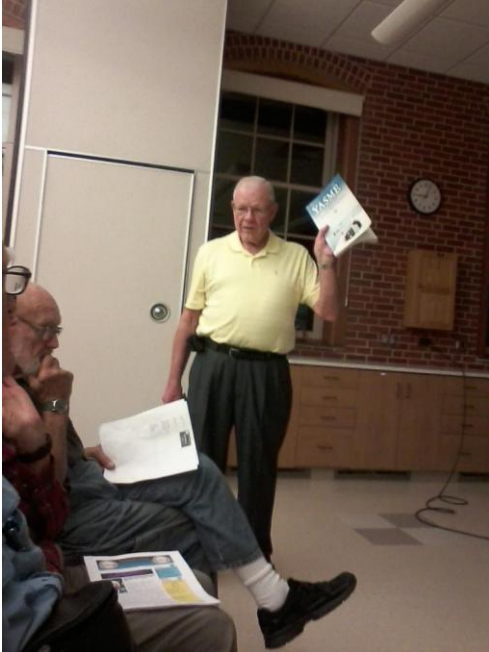
## MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

	<p>We are advertising this for Troop 35 presently and will approach other units soon. Per Kurt, Sandburg School scouts in Wheaton might be interested as well.</p> <p>Motion for \$150 approved.</p>
<b>JOTA</b>	<p><b>N9JPG: Oct 18-19, 2013 JOTA at Blackwell Forest Preserve, Three Fires Council (Boy Scouts) Chanonee District Webelos campout.</b></p> <p>Purpose of these events is to build our membership, help people to get licensed, generate enthusiasm for our hobby in youth and associated adults.</p>
<b>RAB Appointment</b>	<p>Executive Board recommends Steve Peterson N9OA who has accepted.</p> <p>K9JWG and N9MWF motion to approve. Motion approved. George KA3HSW is head of RAB.</p>

### **CLOSING**

<b>Anchors</b>	<p>TS140 for sale K0TRM \$200 with power supply, tuner, external speaker; Kenwood HT with accessories; plus Hustler antenna collection for 10-80 meters \$25: Pickup flyer from Scotty Kenton K0TRM 630-665-0797</p>
<b>Announcements</b>	<p>Dale NJ9E displayed new standup banners that he had printed on a solvent inkjet printer. 7 ft tall. Two sided Stored in labeled cases #1 and #2. OEM donated the equipment bases (\$400) and Dale's customers donated the printing (\$400). Compliments were expressed to Dale for the beauty and appeal of the banners and for getting them made, and to Kevin N9JPG for the design artwork.</p>
<b>Guest Comments</b>	
<b>Member Comments</b>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	<p>Business meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM, to be followed by refreshments, then program: "DXing", presented by Mark Potter W9UZ of the Northern Illinois DX Association (NIDXA) and WCRA. Preceded by N9HDW video from Dayton Hamvention 2013 Youth Forum: "DXpedition to Cyprus" led by KC9UUS, 15 years of age.</p>

# IN THE NEWS



Mark Potter (W9UZ) presented some of his home movies and pictures from his various DXpeditions adventures at the club meeting in September

DXpeditions have been around since the late 1920's, and were a way to test and establish radio communications in far- away places. W9UZ, who is a member of the Northern Illinois DX group, has made several DXpeditions over his lifetime and has made contact with many notable people including famed Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin who was the 1st man to fly into outer space and a descendant of famous HMS Bounty Mutineer Fletcher Christian whom Potter meet in person as part of a South Pacific DXpedition

Although the most typical DXpedition usually involves a group of Hams traveling to a remote part of the globe with their radio equipment and antennas in hand, Potter suggested a couple of alternative ways one could try out a DXpedition. You could simply rent out a Ham Shack in an exotic location. Several of his fellow hams and he did exactly that when he conducted a DXpedition in the Lesser Antilles when he participated in a 10m contest.

If you would like to learn more about DXpeditions contact [WWW.DX-World.Net](http://WWW.DX-World.Net)



## The President's Corner

Members:

Great opportunities exist to get involved with club events this coming month! Our monthly membership meeting, the Chicago Marathon, Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) and the Radio Merit Badge class in early November. I invite you to bring a friend or family member to our monthly meetings. The Chicago Marathon offers a great chance to practice our communications skills and serve the community. This year's JOTA event will be held at the Blackwell Forest Preserve and may be one of our largest audiences yet. Come out and say hello, talk the kids and share with them your knowledge and passion for amateur radio.

The new WCRA club badges have been ordered and we will be distributing them soon to members at the monthly meetings and for those out of town, we will mail them to you. Also remember to start saving your money for the upcoming club auction in November.

At our upcoming WCRA Hamfest, we would like to have a kid's corner to provide a electronic project for them to do something that is simple, educational and fun. If you have ideas or would like to be involved with that, then let me know.

73's

Kevin - N9JPG

### **WCRA Upcoming Programs during club meetings, plus December Holiday Party and Dinner Notice:**

October 4, 2013 1. Ham Kids in Action: Using Robotics in Emergency Response Amateur Radio (video)

2. Smart Phone Amateur Radio Apps - presented by Mike Wilson KC9KHT

November 1, 2013 Auction - Bring your treasures of ham radio and related items (gear, books, computers) to sell. Tag each item with a paper sheet, inventory tag, or masking tape indicating:

Item description, your name, call sign, and minimum starting bid (if any).

Plan on taking home with you any items you bring that do not sell, as well as those you buy.

December 2013 Holiday Party and Dinner. Date & Location To Be Announced. No club meeting in December.

January 3, 2014 1. Ham Kids in Action: Building a Wide Band Bow Tie Antenna (video)

2. Hamfest Final Plans - presented by Kurt Rubin KB9RTO and the WCRA Hamfest

Committee

TNX es 73 de N9HDW,  
Peter Richey

# QST REVIEW



By Jim Ward, W9DHX

"Joy of DX" ISSUE

## **MORE NEWS ABOUT PITCAIRN ISLAND ON PAGE 92**

Mark Potter, W9UZ, presented a great video on a Pitcairn Island DXpedition at our September meeting. The "How's DX" column this month tells a great story about the passing of the "voice" of the sought-after remote island. DXers mourned the loss of VR6TC, Tom Christian. Tom was the triple great grandson of Fletcher Christian, famous for leading the "Mutiny on the Bounty" against Captain Bligh. It's a great follow-up to last meeting's video.

## **ANOTHER SOUTH PACIFIC DX STORY—TWO HAMS RETURN TO ROTUMA**

Bill Vanderheide, N7DU, and friend Bob Norin, W7YAQ, went on a DXpedition to the South Pacific, visiting the South Cook Islands and Fiji, winding up on Rotuma Island. This final stop included a pig roast and building a thatch-roofed cottage. Starting on page 72, Bill tells the story of a "Return to Paradise" and his second time around experiences, which included a 90th birthday celebration. In spite of all the entertainment, the two logged 30,000 contacts. The hams also took time to repair the local school's rig and antenna, shown on this month's cover. That's Bob on the ladder and Bill taking the picture.

## **TUNING UP THE "COOKIE TIN" ANTENNA**

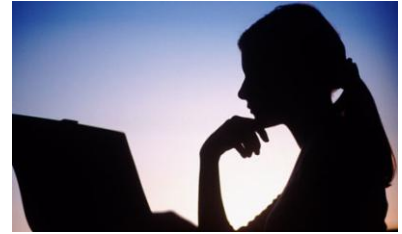
Poinsettia decorated Christmas cookie boxes make great bases for portable two meter antennas. Don't throw that popular gift tin away this Christmas—or perhaps you have several stored in inventory. John Portland, W6NBC, tells you how to put it together so you'll get a good signal report on your next QSO using the handheld on the patio. His article is on pages 39 and 40. John also has an alternate "coffee can" model that can be rigged on a tray table with radials.

## **EYE DOCTOR HAM TRAINS SCOUTS WITH RADIO SURGERY DEVICE**

Doug Cook, KD5PDN, a Boy Scout leader for 18 years, tells some great stories about Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA) experiences in an article starting on page 80. He shows Scouts manual skills by training them to zap warts off a pickle using a medical instrument! Another achievement - the Scouts snared a spacecraft contact! Doug is located in Guthrie, OK, and works with Troop 117.



## Dear Ann Ode...



### Dear Ann Ode,

For five years, I was married to a guy who was so involved in ham radio that he hardly paid any attention to me.

I finally left him last month, which he probably still does not realize.

He is very active in your radio club.

Although he cares more for ham radio than he does for me, I would still like to see him when he leaves the meeting

at his usual 9 p.m.

I get off work at 8:45 p.m. from a store that is about two miles away from your meeting room.

If I rush to your meeting place, do you think I would miss him?

Signed, Ignored XYL

Dear Ignored,

I don't know if you will miss him. However, I still miss my ex-husband---but my aim is getting better.

## TIME FOR HAMFEST.

Help Wanted Hamfest

Looking Forward to seeing new people help out with the workings of the hamfest. If you want to help with the hamfest please see me Kurt ...

[Info@wheatonhamfest.com](mailto:Info@wheatonhamfest.com)



Check us out on  
FACEBOOK

# WCRA 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MID-WINTER HAMFEST

## ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET COMPUTERS AND PC PARTS & OTHER GADGETS AMATEUR RADIO EXPOSITION

### FEATURING

- Free Parking
- Heated Indoor Facility
- Paved Parking Lot
- Food
- Amateur Radio Exams
- Educational Forums

### **Tickets:**

**Advance, 4 raffle stubs \$8**

**At the door, 1 raffle stub \$10**

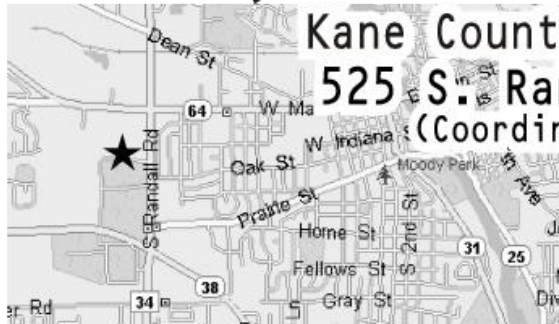
Children under 12 admitted at no charge

### **Exhibit Floor Rental:**

**\$25/table (\$30 after 1/7, if available)**

**Electricity available for \$10**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2014 Doors Open 8AM**



Kane County Fairgrounds Expo Center  
525 S. Randall Rd., St Charles, IL  
(Coordinates: N 41.9056, W 88.34232)

[www.wheatonhamfest.org](http://www.wheatonhamfest.org)

(630) 604-0157

INFO@W9CCU.ORG



### ***Advance Ticket and Flea Market Table Order Form***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @\$8.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Tables @\$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Electricity (\$10.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please include an e-mail address so that we can confirm your order along with an SASE for delivery of tickets..

Mail to: WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60187-1055

# For Sale

Kenwood TS-140S HP Transciever  
Kenwood SP 230 Speakers  
Kenwood AT 230 Antenna Tuner  
Kenwood PS 50 DC Power Supply  
Kenwood Hand Microphone.

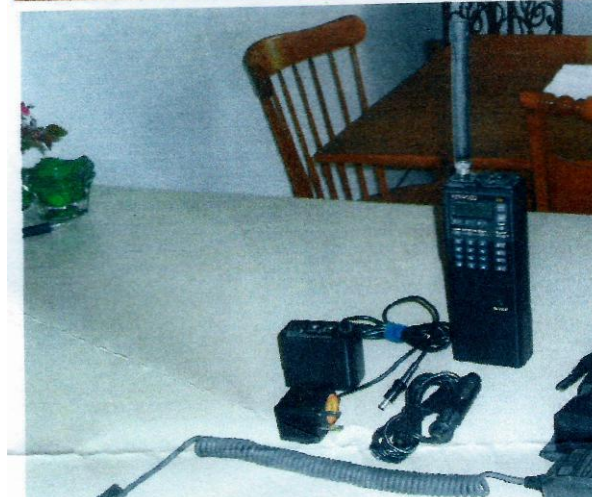
Price \$200.00 for set



Kenwood TH205AT 2 Meter Tranceiver  
Kenwood Battery Charger  
Kenwood SMC-30 Speaker Microphone  
Kenwood Belt Case

Price \$100 for set

Ham Station K0TRM- Scott Kenton- 575 Illini  
Drive- Carol Stream, IL 60188  
Phone # (630)665-0797



## Fox Hunt Report

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  
5th Sat Hunt - Contact Mike at phone number below as hunt info and rules  
may be different from above hunts.  
For further info contact Mike WA9FTS or call at 708-457-0966

## CQ Hamletter Contributors

Wow, looks like we have a busy month ahead of us. Good luck to President Kevin (N9JPG) and his JOTA project; hopefully we'll be getting lots and lots of new Hams out of this event.

And as usual if you have an article for the November Hamletter please get it into me by the deadline of October 18th. My email is [m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com) or if you have any questions about the Hamletter call me at (630)222-9732.

WCRA meets on the First Friday of every month most months at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton Illinois at 7:30 p.m. The church is located at the intersection of Jefferson and Ellis in Wheaton. 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 always followed by a break where light refreshments are served. The break is followed by a program about an amateur radio related subject. We would like to see you there to share the enthusiasm. If you would like more information about the club or would like to join check our website at [www.w9ccu.org](http://www.w9ccu.org) to get an application. You can also check us out on our Facebook page.

### CLUB OFFICERS-

**President-Kevin Oleniczak (N9JPG)**  
**Vice President-Peter Richey (N9HDW)**  
**Secretary- Ken Kwasniewski (N9HQ)**  
**Treasurer-Carol Schroeder (KB9FYL)**  
**Property 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.