

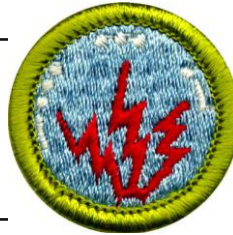


# HAMLETTER



Published Monthly  
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
Issue 601 November 2013

## Good Propagations JOTA!!!!



By Mary Tuohy KC9IJO  
A lot of scouts were on hand to help celebrate the annual Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). Eagle Scout and Vice President Peter Richey (N9HDW), President Kevin Oleniczak (N9JPG),

Jim Ward (W9DHX) Scotty Tenyon(K0TRM) and Property Custodian Dale Kwartka (NJ9E) all took turns showing the scouts what Amateur Radio was all about and getting them on the air. Meanwhile Tom Geletka (N9CBA) organized packs of scouts to go on Fox Hunts throughout the surrounding Blackwell Youth Camp Forest Preserve in West Chicago IL although many of the boys had more fun hiding the Fox then discovering it. Some of the Boy Scouts made contacts even before JOTA began when they helped N9JPG set up the two HF radio stations along with the multi-ban vertical and G5RV wire antennas. A few scouts also had the thrill of contacting the USS Wisconsin, a former battleship and now a maritime museum, anchored in Norfolk Virginia. Those lucky scouts spent nearly an hour communicating with the USS Wisconsin's special event operator.



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### Event Calendar



- Nov 1st-Club Meeting  
7:30 p.m. -Topic Club Auction

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- Sunday Night Nets  
11/3-N9JPG 11/10  
W9DHX 11/17  
KA3HSW 11/24-TBA

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- Nov 22nd Hamletter  
Deadline

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- Dec 8th 5 p.m. Club  
Christmas Party-at  
KB9FYL's home

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- Jan 3rd, 2014-Club  
Meeting 7:30 p.m.-  
Topic-Hamfest

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- Jan 18-19th 2014-  
Hamfest

## GOOD PROPAGATIONS-JOTA (Continued)

Some scouts even got to talk with other scouts via the radios and learned how radio communication differed from the now common use of cell phones for communication.

N9JPG organized the event this year and he compared JOTA to a small field day with weeks of prep going into the big day. NJ9E spoke about how the idea was to get kids not only enthused about Amateur Radio but all fields of science and technology.



These scouts seem to already know what they are doing when it comes to the in's and out's of amateur radio.

# Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS

October 4, 2013, 1930 hrs

## OPENING

Call to Order	Called to order at 7:35 pm.
Opening Remarks/Announcements	The new club badges were distributed to members.
Approval of Agenda	Approved
Introductions of Members/Guests	N9HQ, NE9ET, AJ9M W9BK, WA9VAA, NJ9E, N9MWF, KB9RTO, N9HDW, N9OA, K9JWG, KA9HEL, N9JPG, N9CBA, WA9FTS WA9ACO, K9ILF, NV9R, KB9FYL, K9EFK, W9BK, WA9FTS, AC9CN (New Member) Alex, Colin, Seth & Scotty/K0TRM were guests.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

Corrections/Questions	None
Approval	Approved

## OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9JPG)	Hamfest support needed. A technician class will be conducted near the end of winter. Help is needed as well. See Kevin.
Vice President (N9HDW)	Tonight's program will be on smart phone apps by Mike KC9KHT & John WT9Y (via Skype). Next month's meeting is the club auction. No December meeting. The January meeting will be hosted by Kurt

## MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

	regarding the 2014 Hamfest.
Secretary (N9HQ)	None
Treasurer (KB9FYL)	Totals given.
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	None

### REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (KA3HSW)	None
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)	The website has been updated to reflect upcoming events.
Public Relations (W9UZ)	None
Club Awards (N9MWF)	None
Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)	The Chicago Marathon is coming up on October 13. About 7 club members will be participating in this event. A brief discussion of the Winfield Criteria was discussed. An event at Cantigny next October was brought up. Further information to follow (Mike/KC9KHT)
CSU (N9MWF)	The CSU will be prepped for the Chicago

## MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

	Marathon. A public address system will soon be available. A work day will forthcoming for the CSU.
Interference ( <i>open position</i> )	None
Training (open)	A Radio Merit Badge class is coming up November 2, with about 25 scouts.
VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)	The Lombard Library is not cooperating with the VE Team regarding space and scheduling. No other information.
[Meeting] Program (N9HDW)	A video regarding robots will be shown tonight. Help is needed for programs. See Peter.
Club Nets ( <i>open position</i> )	Let Kevin or Mary know to help out.
Hamfest (KB9RTO)	Kurt has flyers and tickets available. Information is also available on the website and other club's websites, as well.
Radio GO KIT Fundraising)	Dale is working on advertising.
Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)	More after the 1 <sup>st</sup> of the year.
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	The clubs Christmas Party will be December 8, at 5pm at Carol's house. More info next month. Cost will be about \$10 per person. A signup sheet was sent around.
Membership (open)	AC9CN / Steven Hill was voted in.

### CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	None
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<b>By-laws Amendment Proposal</b>	<b>Marty Kennedy was contacted regarding this. No response from Marty.</b>
<b>Annual Budget Review</b>	<b>No committee chairs responded to a request for input. The review was tabled until next month.</b>

### **NEW BUSINESS**

<b>Don Drake Scholarship Fund</b>	<b>Nominations are open. Please contact Jim/W9DHX. The results will be announced at the next meeting.</b>
<b>Steve/N9OA</b>	<b>The Wheaton Park District donated a check in the amount of \$300 for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. \$150 was allocated for the Chicago Marathon for gasoline.</b>

### **CLOSING**

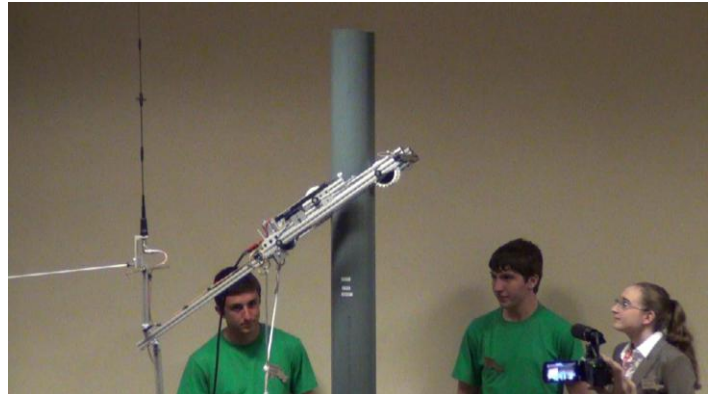
<b>Anchors</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Guest Comments</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Member Comments</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>Adjourned at 8:03 pm.</b>

# IN THE NEWS

## SMART RADIO "APPS"

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

Peter Richey, N9HDW, and his Program Committee kept members on alert during a well timed session of live and screened presentations at the October 4th meeting. Opening the program was a Dayton based "high school ham" show about mixing "robotics" and ham radio to offer a solution to a weather emergency need. The students created a robot to mount an antenna on a utility pole!



The major thrust was information on the flood of Android apps that relate to ham radio. Mike Wilson, KC9KHT, led off with a solid power point presentation covering a variety of uses from the simple to complex, finishing up with a live ECHO Link demonstration with a ham friend on his phone somewhere in Northern Indiana.

The geography then switched to Charlotte, NC, where "remote member" John Faber, WT9Y, was sitting in his shack in front of his laptop fitted with Skype mike and camera. It matched Program Chairman Peter's unit at the meeting. Thanks to the projector in Wheaton, the audience could see and hear John. He took over with an explanation of iPhone apps that were useful in ham radio and how he personally used them



What was even more surprising was that John was able to field questions from the audience and that the video and audio quality was so good. He could spot us in the audience and it was almost as good as "in person".

# ANNOUNCING- THE ANNUAL CLUB AUCTION!

At the upcoming November 1, 2013 Club auction of member's radio and radio related gear (e.g., computers), you will have the opportunity to sell your excess and no longer needed items which can become new treasures for another member who buys them. I just have a few requests first

## **1. Please tag your item with the following information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_  
Item Name \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. 1993 Yaesu FT-51R Handie-Talkie radio) \_\_\_\_  
Minimum Bid \_\_\_\$xx.xx\_\_\_\_\_ (leave blank if no minimum)\_\_\_\_\_  
Description \_\_\_\_\_ (List what the item is, any special features, all included accessories such as microphone, extra rubber duck antenna, 2 extra batteries, charger, etc. Also give any additional important information regarding condition and working or not.

**2. Please have your tagged items at the meeting room by 7:15 PM Friday 11/1/2013** in order to have them in the auction that night. Late arriving auction items may be included in the auction at the discretion of the Program Committee Chairman.

**3. Please plan on taking home with you any items you bring that do not sell.** You are welcome to give any of your unsold items to any willing recipient at the end of the auction. Otherwise remove all of your unsold items at the end of the auction. There will be no trash service for unsold items.

Peter Richey  
N9HDW

## **AUCTION TAG**

**NAME:**

**CALL SIGN:**

**ITEM NAME:**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION:**

**MINIMUM BID:**



# QST REVIEW



By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **GENERATOR SMARTS AND SAFETY**

Many hams have portable generators – others are thinking about buying one to keep home appliances going during power emergencies. Great article “Your Portable Generator to the Rescue” by Mike Gruber, W1MG. With prices on generators becoming reasonable the idea of being ready for an outage becomes appealing. The article begins on page 44 and tells you how to “get hooked up the right way, and the safe way.” It is not as easy as pulling the starting cord! Mike offers advice on everything from the connection hookup to fuel management.

## **RUNNING WATER USED FOR “ULTIMATE GREEN POWER”**

QST has an “international” feature this month. It is by David Anderson KROCK, who became interested in a portable wilderness ham station developed by young Romanian hams. The location was an island in the delta of the River Danube. The sponsoring organization is the World Genesis Foundation, whose purpose is to create opportunities for the moral, physical and intellectual development for youth in parts of the world remote from the main stream. The first step was developing effective hydroelectric power to run their radio gear. With that accomplished, the group went on to add solar power and their ham equipment. It starts on page 78, and includes pictures of their wilderness layout.

## **GRANDPA, WHAT IS A “MILL”?**

If you were aboard the USS SLATER, a maritime museum ship on the east coast, it would be easy to answer by pointing to special old fashioned typewriters on display. A “mill” was the name used for “caps only” machines built by Royal and Underwood for naval and military use. Or you can read the article starting on page 75. A copy of the official message informing all naval facilities “AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR X THIS IS NO DRILL” is reproduced. (I recently met a man whose father had been a brand new radio officer at the Brooklyn Navy Yard on Dec. 7, 1941, and received this message. The son said his father’s reaction was: “What do we do now?”) Stan Levandowski, WB1QF, a volunteer at the museum, is the author.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE COLUMN - RICK PALM, K1CE, SOUNDS OFF ON EOC ATTITUDE**

Rick devotes his page 85 column to reprinting his editorial from the August ARRL “ARES E-letter”, which apparently has brought several responses. The editorial expresses concern that there has been a campaign of complaints of how radio amateurs relate to the professionals in the Emergency Operations Center. (In DuPage County the professionals are known as the OEM -Office of Emergency Management.) Rick follows up the editorial with various reader reactions, such as the removal of uncooperative Emergency Managers to “better communications needed.”

## ANNOUNCING THE QST APP

ARRL members using Android tablets and phones can now download a dedicated app to access the digital edition of QST. The app gives ARRL members access to read QST online or choose to download individual issues of the journal for offline reading. The QST app is free in the Google Play Store (search for “QST”). After you’ve tried it, tell us what you think! Use this online form to share your feedback.

The digital edition of QST includes every article, every column, every ad, everything in the printed magazine and more! Members now have 3 great ways to access the current digital edition of QST and archives:



Web edition (laptops, desktop computers, and many mobile devices) – go to [www.arrl.org/qst](http://www.arrl.org/qst)



Apple iOS devices (iPhone, iPad and iPod touch) – get the free QST app from Apple’s [App Store](#)



Android devices (tablets, phones and more) – get the free QST app from the [Google Play Store](#) QST Android App

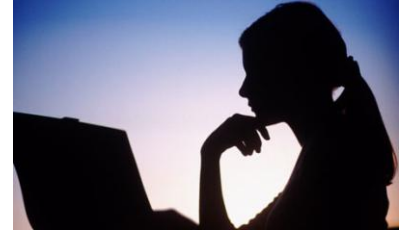
Members must have a valid ARRL website login to access digital editions of QST. Need help? Visit the digital edition help page for frequently asked questions. Need more help? Contact Member Services by telephone 860-594-0200 or 888-277-5289 (US only) or [email\\_circulation@arrl.org](mailto:email_circulation@arrl.org).

We hope you’ll enjoy this NEW ARRL membership benefit!

73,

Steve Ford, WB8IMY  
QST Editor

## Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,  
I really want to go to the big hamfest in Villa Park next week. My car is not running,  
so I will have to take the Metra train there from Wheaton.  
I have never ridden the Metra train before, so I don't know my way.  
Can you give me directions?

Signed, Worried

Dear Worried,

I sure can! I'll be on the same train, but I'm going to an event in Elmhurst. So just watch for me and get off one stop before I do.

## **HELP WANTED HAMFEST!!!!!!!!!!!!**

I am desperately looking for persons willing to donate time to our clubs only fund-raiser. The 47th annual WCRA Electronic and Hamfest to be held on Jan 19th, 2014 at the Kane County Fairgrounds. If you want to help with the Hamfest please see me Kurt [info@wheatonhamfest.com](mailto:info@wheatonhamfest.com)

### **ANNOUNCING-THE CLUB'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**

**When:December 8th, 2013**

**Where: At KB9FYL's home**

**Cost: \$10 per person.**

**For more information contact Ruth KA9RZG at [rkwarta@aol.com](mailto:rkwarta@aol.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**

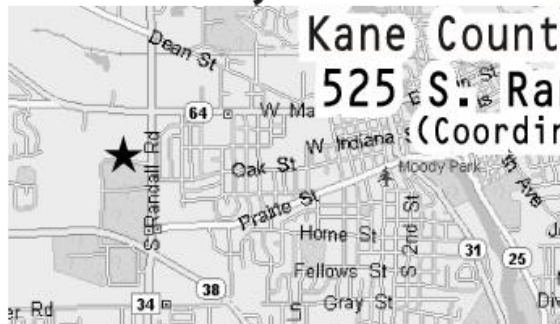
Children under 12 admitted at no charge

### **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

Cleaning out the shack and have the following tubes to give away. These have been in my shack's closet for, well, forever. I'm not sure of their condition and they are offered "as is". Each tube is boxed. Pickup will be at my home in Wheaton. My info is correct in the last Callbook (yes I said Callbook) or on QRZ. I'd prefer to give away all of the tubes at once.

If interested please reply via e-mail with date/time of pickup.

Thanks es 73  
Rich, N9DKO  
Email: [rk911@yahoo.com](mailto:rk911@yahoo.com)

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Magnavox 12BA6  
Raytheon 2806-39  
Sears 50C5  
Westinghouse 50C5  
Silvertone 35W4  
Silvertone 12BE6

## QSO CARD REQUEST

I am looking to print a few WCRA Club QSL cards to send to hams we spoke with during JOTA and was curious to see examples of past club QSL cards if any exist? If you have any, please copy or scan the card to and send to me via email or at one of our meetings.

Kevin - N9JPG

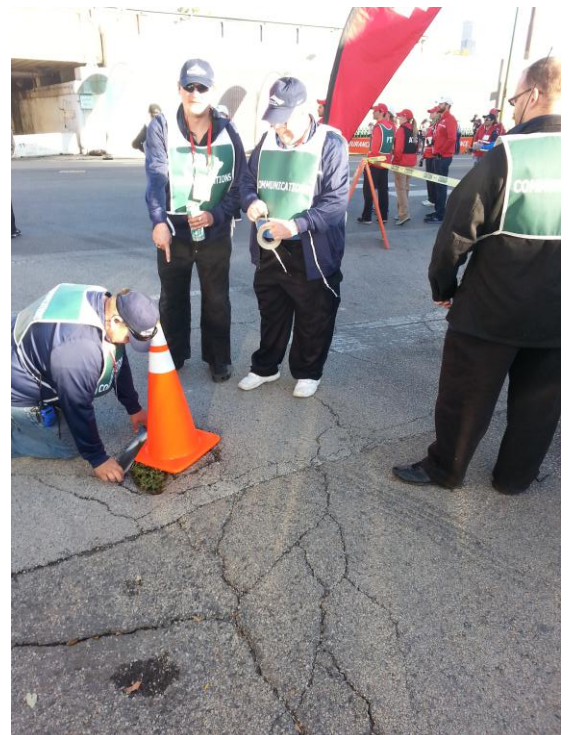
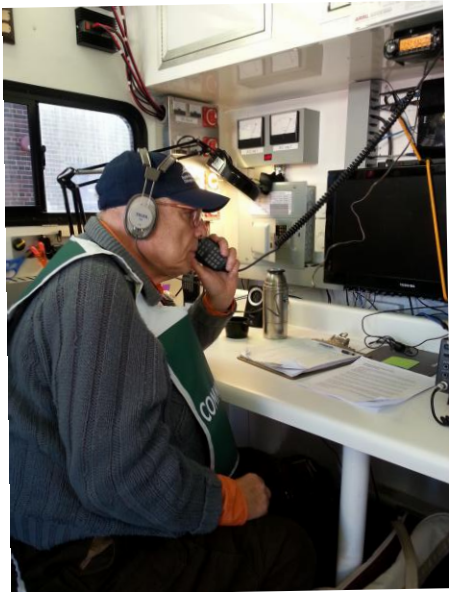
## Fox Hunt Report

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

# WCRA IN THE COMMUNITY



Seven WCRA Hams traveled to Chicago to participate in the 36th annual Chicago Marathon. 45,000 runners ran the race and 39,115 runners crossed the finish line including race winner Dennis Kimetto, who broke the course race's record. The club worked communications for Aid Station 16 providing medical traffic and medical information to the Chicago Marathon's Forward command center and their doctors to make the appropriate medical decisions for runners in distress (such as calling an ambulance to take a runner to a nearby hospital). Four other club members participated in the Marathon by working other aids stations as well.



## CQ Hamletter Contributors

Oh boy, I can't believe the Holidays are nearly upon us. This year has flown by, but then again doesn't every year? I hope everyone has a good time shopping at our club's annual auction and if you couldn't find it there, keep in mind there is the club's annual Mid Winter Hamfest coming up on Jan 20th 2014. (2014 already?)

Speaking of Thanksgiving, Anne Ode wanted to send a special "Thank You" out to the club member who was gracious enough to donate the money for the new name badges. And I want to send a big "Thank You" out to my major helper Jim Ward (W9DHX) for covering the meeting for me and for always taking pictures of our club's events for the Hamletter. I couldn't operate this Ham letter without you.

And just a reminder, the deadline for the December Hamletter will be Friday November 22nd. If you wish to put an article into the December Hamletter please email it to me at [m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com) or if you have any questions about the Hamletter please 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

Editor-  
Mary Tuohy KC9IJO Email-  
[m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com)  
Contributor-Jim Ward (W9DHX)

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(630) 604-0157  
[wkra@w9ccu.org](mailto:wkra@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.