



HAMLETTER



Published Monthly
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 602 November 2013

ANNOUNCING CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY

On Sunday, Dec 8th, we will all (that have reservations that is) arrive at Carol Schroeder's (KB9FYL) house for the Annual WCRA Holiday Party. We will have a catered dinner, mingle, sing some Christmas Carols, and a few surprises!

The cost to attend this fun time is \$15 and that can be paid at the party. We need reservations, since this will be catered and we need the exact count that will attend.

To place your reservation, please email Dale (tis02@aol.com) or Ruth (rkwarta@aol.com) or leave a message on their phone ([630-858-8541](tel:630-858-8541)). A good time will be had by all who attend!

Carol's address is 0N490 Evans Ave., Wheaton, IL.

PLEASE RSVP BY DEC. 5TH!!!!!!

Thanks
Ruth Kwarta KA9RZG



Inside...

- pg 1. Club Christmas Party
- pg 2. Minutes
- Pg 4. In The News
- Pg 6. President's article
- pg 7. QST Review
- pg 8. Dear Ann Ode/Hamfest
- pg 11. In the Community/Fox Hunt report
- pg 12. Message from Illinois ARRL
- pg 14. Editor's note

Event Calendar



- SUNDAY NIGHT NETS**
- Dec 1st-N9JPG
- Dec 8th-NO NET-
- Dec 15th-KA3HSW,
- Dec 22nd TBA
- Dec 29-TBA.
-
- Dec 5th-Deadline to RSVP to holiday party
-
- Dec 6th-No Meeting
-
- Dec 8th Club Holiday Party.
-
- Dec 19th, DEADLINE HAMLETTER,
-
- Jan 3rd, 2014 Next Club Meeting.
-
- Jan 18th&19th HAMFEST!!!

Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS

November 1, 2013, 1930 hrs

OPENING

Call to Order	Called to order at 7:36 pm.
Opening Remarks/Announcements	The program for this evening is our annual auction.
Approval of Agenda	Approved
Introductions of Members/Guests	N9HQ,W9BK,KB9RTO,KA9HEL,WA9VAA,WA9FIS,N9CBA,K9JWG, AJ9M,NV9R,NJ9E,N9WBW,KC9KHT,N9OA,W9UZ,N9HDW,KA0DSF, W9DHX,KB9YFL,KQ9V, N9MWF,AC9CN,WA9ACO,K9ILE,W9MJM, K0TRM,N9JPG, ...Guest were Colin Oleniczak, Phil/WA9EMO and John (Joe) Grosshauser

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

Corrections/Questions	None
Approval	Approved

OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9JPG)	The new name badges can be picked up tonight.
Vice President (N9HDW)	No meeting next month due to the holiday party.
Secretary (N9HQ)	None
Treasurer (KB9FYL)	The balances were given.
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	Don Drake's radios were tested and operate fine.

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (KA3HSW)	The 440 machine is being repaired by George Henry which includes a new power supply.
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)	Up and operating. Being updated regularly.
Public Relations (W9UZ)	None
Club Awards (N9MWF)	None
Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)	The Chicago Marathon went well from an operational standpoint. A job well done by Steve, John, Ken, Joe, Bryan, and Jack.
CSU (N9MWF)	The CSU was at the Marathon and served us well. The flashlight fell and broke the first kit. It will be replaced. The public address system will be installed in the near future. The tires may need to be replaced as well as the emergency backup battery for the braking system. Joe is looking into these items.
Interference (open position)	None
Training (open)	Tomorrow is the first Boy Scout Merit Badge class. The class will be held in Winfield. 14 scouts are signed up.

MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)	None
Programs	No meeting next month due to the holiday party. The next meeting will be in January 2014.
Club Nets (<i>open position</i>)	None
Hamfest (KB9RTO)	Our Hamfest will be January 18-19, 2014. Help is needed. The Worker Chairman is needed. See Kurt to sign.
Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)	There are several available. See Dale. They will also be sold at our Hamfest.
Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)	None
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	At Carol's house, Dec 8 at 5 pm. \$15/head. A reservation sheet is being passed around.
Membership (open)	New member application, Scott K0TRM. Scott was voted in as a new member.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	None
By-laws Amendment Proposal	The lawyer has looked at the proposal and has told us some changes have to be made.
Annual Budget Review	Copies of the budget have been passed around to the members. After a brief discussion, the new budget was voted in.

NEW BUSINESS

	None

CLOSING

anchors	None
Announcements	Nathan Volle told a brief story about his beacon and its interference with Comcast telephones. Jim/W9DHX presented the 2014 Don Drake Award to Dale Kwartta.
Guest Comments	None
Member Comments	None
Adjournment	Adjourned at 8:11 pm.

IN THE NEWS



Colin Oleniczak, The Auctioneer, reads the specifications on the Remote Control Escalade. as Dale, NJ9E, looks on

The club's annual auction was held on Nov 1st, 2013. Members were encouraged to bring in their old unwanted or unused ham radio gear and see if they could be sold to their fellow WCRA hams. Future ham Colin Oleniczak (President Kevin N9JPG's son) was auctioneer and quickly mastered the art of bidding. Vice President Peter Richey(N9HDW) and his programming team helped Colin keep track of all items being bought and sold. This annual event helps to prove that one Ham's trash is another Ham's treasure.

Victor, AJ9N, looks over Auction items





Mark (W9UZ) Smiles
over his auction
purchase

Bob (NV9R) takes the
Remote in hand, and
Peter(N9HDW) bids the
Escalade farewell





The President's Corner

Members:

As 2013 draws to a close, I look back and see many healthy signs for our club throughout the year. We've continued many of our club operations and traditions including, the Hamfest, the Hamletter, Field Day, the summer picnic, meeting programs, the fourth of July parade, our repeaters, the Chicago Marathon and soon the holiday party. We've updated and passed a budget, made good progress on the club inventory audit, established marketing materials and started radio scouting programs. We've sustained the membership and added a few new members this year as well.

Most of this happens from a smaller subset of active club members, committee chair members and board members. I'm extremely thankful for them and their commitment to making our club active and inviting to others. If you've enjoyed the benefit of all that our club offers, please share a quick note or handshake with those you recognize the next time you see them.

If you haven't been involved in directly supporting club activities, I would encourage you to take your membership to the next level and begin to do so in 2014. An active club like ours takes much time and preparation behind the scenes to run. As they say, many hands make light work. Let's all start out by lending a hand with the Hamfest. This event is the primary source of income for the club and is necessary to sustain the programs and events we offer.

Seasons Greetings!

Kevin - N9JPG

QST REVIEW

By Jim Ward, W9DHX



FINNISH HAMS ARE BUSY IN SANTA'S HAM STATION AND MAIL ROOM

Martti Lane, OH2BH, a resident of the far northern nation of Finland, tells a fascinating story about a creative project of Hams in this country noted for its proximity to the North Pole. He uses pages 54 to 56 explaining how you can have a Santa Claus experience by setting your beam toward Rovaniemi, Finland. Good reports on “live” contacts and Santa Claus Certificates earned.

IS IT “LIGHTS OUT” FOR YOUR OLDER EQUIPMENT?

Those of us who picked up some older gear at the November Auction may have some problems with the incandescent pilot light bulbs being out. Consider the article this month by Charles Rankin, WA2HMM, (page 33-34) describing how to replace the old with new LEDs. He shows how it is done on a Kenwood Power Meter. He works for Motorola Solutions in Holtsville, NY.

UNUSUAL CONTACTS ON THE AIR -- LOWELL THOMAS AND FATHER MORAN

Speaking of old equipment, remember the “telephone patch”? Paul Danzer, N1II, recalls one of his most interesting hook-ups. Before the days of cell phones and cheap international calling, hams were helpful in low-cost hookups. On page 60, Paul tells of putting a conference call together over the air in 1979 between the famous newscaster Lowell Thomas and the equally famous (among hams) Father Moran, 9N1MM, of Nepal. Great story and brings back memories of hooking up families for free when overseas calls were a dollar a minute or more.

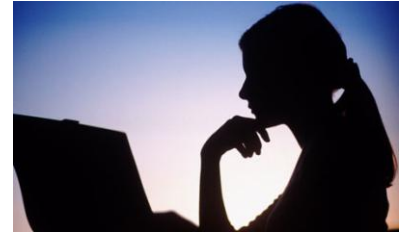
ANTENNA BUILDERS – HERE’S A PROJECT FOR YOU

Joel Hallas, W1ZR, was a panel speaker at our 2012 HamFest and he has come up with a sophisticated 15 and 20 meter antenna you might like to build. He gives complete directions on pages 35-37 with diagrams, photos, and performance charts. Basic materials are window line and coax. His previous UHF-VHF versions of the same design in the May 2011 issue have been used successfully by many hams.

“TAKING STOCK” – THE ARRL CEO LOOKS FORWARD TO THE 100TH YEAR

Would you be surprised to know that there are about 715,000 FCC licensed Ham Radio operators in the U. S.? In his page 9 editorial David Sumner, K1ZZ, takes a look at the status of Amateur Radio and the ARRL. He concludes that the hobby is healthy going into the 100th year and that the organization that Hiram Percy Maxim started will be around for another generation. So take a look at the accomplishments David reviews and be glad you are a part of the tradition.

Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,

I'm planning to pilot my private 6-seat helicopter to the big Hamfest in Wisconsin.

I'm very disappointed that you refused to buy a seat on this flight. After all, my prices are much lower than any other pilot's. Wasn't last year's ride smooth enough for you?

Signed, Flying Ham

Dear Flying Ham,

Yes, the flight was very smooth and your price is very reasonable. But price isn't everything; I got very nervous every time you announced for us to keep our scotch tape fastened.

TIME FOR HAMFEST.

As the time of year starts of going here and there let us keep in the Back of our minds that OUR CLUB'S BIGGEST FUNDRAISER of the YEAR that's our WCRA HAMFEST!!! We still need a Volunteer Chairman or woman to serve that area. Please let me know if this is something you would like to do. We also need help throughout the day of the event. Also, as I said it is a fundraiser. So if you can buy some tickets (or sell them) for our club raffle I would appreciate it. The grand prize is 200.00 bucks and you/they get 4 chances with each pre-sale ticket. Forums are looking great.. And FYI, have a safe holiday too.

KURT REUBEN

KB9RTO

email: hamfest@wcra.com



Check us out on
FACEBOOK

WCRA 47TH 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

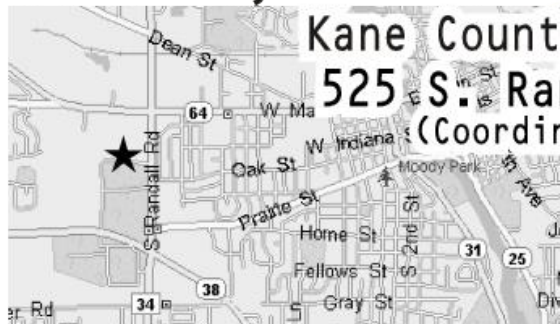
Children under 12 admitted at no charge

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

(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 \$ _____

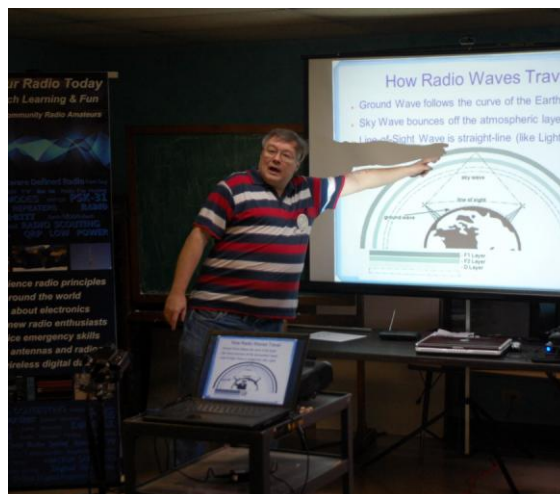
Please include an e-mail address so that we can confirm your order along with an SASE for delivery of tickets..

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

IN THE COMMUNITY!!!

The Radio Merit badge class held on 11/2/2013. 15 scouts attended and 11 completed the badge requirements that day. It was an action packed class with enthusiastic instructors and scouts. Class leaders were, Peter Richey(N9HDW), Al Sawyer(K9ILF), Bob Hanson(KX9RJ)and Kevin Oleniczak(N9JPG). Dale Kwarta(NJ9E) assisted with the operating stations. Scouts attended from Wheaton, Naperville and even DeKalb. They noted others from their troops would have liked the class and so we'll see about scheduling another class in 2014. Let me know if interested in helping with an upcoming class.

Kevin Oleniczak
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

A MESSAGE FROM THE ILLINOIS ARRL

Several times a year, it falls upon me to be contacted by a family member of a recently deceased ham. The conversation is some variation on a theme of "where/how do I get rid of all of this 'stuff'?" My drill for this occurrence is to have someone from the closest club contact the relative and let things progress from there. It has always worked out, and I've never heard any negative feedback. However, there is a better way. First, I am not one bit embarrassed by making the following Statement: If you do not make provisions to facilitate the disposal of Your ham-related possessions after your death, you are doing a gross disservice to your survivors. Foremost among the reasons for pre-planning is that you may unintentionally prolong the grieving process by requiring your heirs to at least supervise a possible stranger going through your favorite toys. On the heels of that is that by and large, we have spent a lot of money in accumulating our gear over time. A life's collection of electronics is an asset and should be treated as such. Proper inventory should be kept and plans made to recoup some of that asset in cash--cash that your family might need if your departure is prolonged or untimely. And, there's no one who can pre-plan for this but "you". You should compile a proper inventory of your equipment. This should include serial numbers and approximate purchase cost. (Note that a lot of what I've just described is also a good drill in case of theft, or natural/manmade mishaps. Try to explain Amateur Radio to an insurance adjuster.) Also, a list of other things like books and magazine collections should be compiled as well. All of this is going to be a dynamic listing, kept current as things come and go. And, it needs to be kept in a safe place where your family knows how to access it. On your password protected and encrypted Linux box is probably a bad idea. People are going to be upset and in no mood for puzzles. The most difficult part is going to be finding a trusted individual outside of your immediate family who is willing to help your survivors navigate through your stuff. This is the person who is going to help your spouse get the prevailing buck for your equipment if it goes for sale. He/she will know where to contact help to remove your antennas from the roof and uninstall gear from the family car. In case your plans call for donating your gear: making sure that it gets to a place where it will be appreciated and used. In short: someone who will carry out your final wishes to the best of their ability and help your family get on to the new normal. It goes without saying that your entire plan should be committed to writing, and your family needs to know all of the details. They should have the contact info for your "trusted individual" And know who he/she is personally. Again, there is something profoundly disturbing about a total stranger rummaging through a dead relative's most prized possessions. Everyone dies. It's usually a fairly traumatic passage for those who are left behind. But, you have it within your power to assure a level of comfort after you are gone. Make plans for orderly disposal of your station and its

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARRIL OF ILLINOIS (Continued)

"Lighten up, Francis." The notorious Velveeta (or do you say 'Valve-eater'?) and ham radio television commercial is being aired again. And again, we hear the low moan of those stricken by the prop CB radios in the background. TV and film very rarely get things like Amateur Radio even remotely right. We know this. John Amodeo NN6JA and his crew are doing their best with Last Man Standing to introduce and maintain accuracy. I'm sure that there are plenty of other folks in Hollyweird who are trying the same thing with other productions which use ham radio as a prop or plot device. But, accuracy is the first thing to go when balanced against the quest to entertain. So, what to do? Simple. We as a group can own this stuff, flawed or no, and use it as a conversation starter to get people interested in the service. We can bounce past the inaccuracies and correct them later when we get down to Elmer's business. The other two options when asked for an explanation by a lay person would be to mumble and walk away, or go into a tirade over the inaccuracies and lose the questioner in minutiae and jargon. Either one of those does not serve our ultimate purpose, which is to explain our passion so well that anyone who hears just wants to drop everything and join our ranks.

SKYWARN Recognition Day is laid on for 7 December from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC. Most National Weather Service forecast offices are mounting some type of participation with the area SKYWARN partners and activating their in-house amateur stations. Some offices are having open houses in conjunction with the on-air event. Check with your local NWS office for their plans.

Get informed...

As I write this, the K9W Wake Island DXpedition is winding down. By all accounts, a good time was had by all, and there were plentiful contacts. Of note is the approval of the operation for DXCC credit and the QSO between the team and Illinois Congressman Brad Schneider. That contact was facilitated by Wally Klinger W9BEA. Wally had originally contacted Representative Schneider to address concerns about obtaining access to US possessions abroad for DXpeditions. One thing led to another, and the contact happened shortly after. Most important was the purpose of the trip, which was to commemorate and honor the "Forgotten 98". These men were civilians: employees of Morrison Knudsen Corporation who were trapped on Wake Island by the Japanese invasion, forced to work to build infrastructure for the invaders, and then summarily executed when the Japanese thought that the US was going to retake the island. It's a story that I had not heard until this exercise was laid on.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARRL OF ILLIONIS (CONTINUED)

Also ongoing at this time are relief efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan's passage over the Philippines. Even five days later (at this writing), the full measure of the disaster is still being assessed. As is the case in nearly all of such events, Amateur Radio is the only means of communication until temporary infrastructure repairs can be affected. Please avoid 7.095 MHz for the duration as that is being used for emergency traffic.

Around the Section...

The Kishwaukee ARC/DeKalb County ARES was involved in providing communication for two events in Sycamore during the last month. The first was the CROP Walk for Hunger held on 20 October, involving 16 hams and 138 walk participants. The second was the annual effort as Parade Marshals for the Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Parade held on 27 October. This is one of the Big Deals in the area for the year, involving 22 operators to help organize the procession of 120 units and 12 high school bands. Well done on these two high visibility events.

And, finally: Fritz Bock WD9FMB sends "The Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club participated in two public service events on October 12 and 13. The Goodwill Forward March and Run comprised a 1 mile march and both 4 and 8 mile runs. The Saturday event was the first run for Goodwill in Peoria and PAARC was pleased to participate. Proceeds from the run are used to further veteran services in central Illinois as well as the General Wayne A. Downing Home for Homeless Veterans located near downtown Peoria. Club members covered key intersections used by the runners' as well strategic locations within the Springdale Cemetery and Park. Amateur Radio Operators included, Darhal, K9DRF as net control, Dwight, WD9HZK, John, KB9TNZ; John, N9FAM; Jon, NM00; Larry, KC9QYA; Jim, KC9FWR; Mark, W9WGN; John, N9YUY; Merle, KB9VQH and Fritz,

WD9FMB. On Sunday, October 13, four members of the Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club provided logistical and medical team emergency communication support during the 36th Bank of America Chicago Marathon. The group manned Aid Station number 10. This is the 5th year the Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club has supported the marathon and the 5th year the organizers have used amateur radio to support the runners. Amateur Radio Operators (assisting with the Marathon) included Jim, KC9FWR; Ron, KB9NW; Mark, W9WGN and Fritz, WD9FMB."

And, a very happy and safe Thanksgiving and holiday season to you and yours.

ARRL Illinois Section

Section Manager: Thomas T Ciciora, KA9QPN ka9qpn@arrl.org

CQ Hamletter Contributors

Is it almost 2014? Will Santa bring me a new antenna for Christmas? Why did 2013 have to fly by so fast?

Well on behalf of the Hamletter staff I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Bodhi day, Happy Kwanzaa, or whatever other holidays you and your loved ones celebrate. I hope to see many of you at the holiday party.

And a quick reminder the January Hamletter deadline is Dec 19th and that will be a hard deadline (No extensions whatsoever!). Please email me your submissions by midnight Dec 19th, 2013 at m2e1990@gmail.com so I can get the Hamletter out before the 1st of January. If you have any questions call me at (630)222-9732 or email me once again at m2e1990@gmail.com

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 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 Kwarto (NJ9E)

HAMLETTER

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

Club Mailing Address:Wheaton
Community Radio Amateurs
P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
(630) 604-0157
wcra@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.