



HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 604 January 2014



TIME FOR HAMFEST!!!!!!

Dear WCRA

As you may know or not know OUR clubs long time event and fund-raiser is just weeks away- The 47Th Hamfest!!! Tons of volunteers are needed to make this a great 47Th fest! We hope you can join us. The Grand Prize is a cash prize of \$200.00. This means you can sell tickets to Non-Hams as a raffle ticket or buy and give it as a late holiday gift. We will be back in St. Charles at the Kane County Fair Grounds at 525 S Randal Rd on the west side of the street (off the intersection of Randal Rd and Roosevelt). We still need help setting up, tearing down and everywhere in between. Peter N9HDW has great forums set up for us and our visitors. So let's make 2014 a Great Year and have a Great Hamfest to support your Club!! For more information and to volunteer please email me at hamfest@w9ccu.org

Thank you

Sincerely
Kurt Rubin
KB9RTO



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Event Calendar



Sunday Night Nets
Jan 5th-N9JPG
Jan 12-W9DHX
Jan 19th-KA3HSW
Jan 26th-W9BK

Jan 3rd-Monthly
Meeting-Topic
Hamfest

Jan 5th-Kid's On The
Air Day

Jan 18th & 19th
HAMFEST!!!!

Jan 24th Hamletter
Deadline

Feb 7th Monthly
Meeting

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

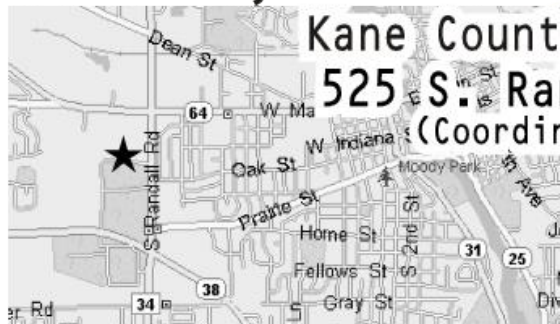
Children under 12 admitted at no charge

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

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,KB9KTO,KA9HEL,WA9VAA,WA9FIS,N9CBA,K9JWG, AJ9M,NV9R,NJ9E,N9WBW,KC9KHT,N9OA,W9UZ,N9HDW,KA0DSF, W9DHX,KB9YFL,KQ9V, N9MWF,AC9CN,WA9ACO,K9ILF,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

The Don Drake Memorial Scholarship Award



Dale Kwarta, NJ9E, accepts the 2013 Don Drake Scholarship Award from Jim Ward, W9DHX. The Plaque and a check for \$300 is presented each year by the Drake Family in memory of Don, K9VGN, in recognition of outstanding performance in Public Service. Dale's creation of the "Go-Box" from a surplus ammunition box, as well as other Public Service activities, won him the award.



The President's Corner

Members:

I look forward to our annual Hamfest and hope you are too. It's important as a tradition of amateur radio operators and enthusiasts, and it's also our primary source of fund raising. As we seek to attract new interest in it, we know there are many competing hobbies and distractions. Amateur radio continues to be a great place for youth and adults to learn new skills that can lead them into exciting and rewarding careers. Our Hamfest is an easy way for the public to see a little of what it's all about through electronic parts, radio items, forums, our CSU and most importantly our club members who are on hand to interact with. Please make time in your busy schedules to participate in our Hamfest and remember to tell a friend!

On behalf of the board, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kevin - N9JPG

Program Meeting Notes

Our monthly meeting will be Friday, January 3rd, 2014 7:30 PM,
at the First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, Illinois,
at the northwest corner of the intersection of Jefferson and Ellis Avenues.

Program:

- 1) Ham Kids in Action: Building a Wide Band Bow Tie Antenna (15 minute video)
- 2) Hamfest Final Plans - presented by Kurt Rubin KB9RTO and the WCRA Hamfest Committee
(Including a short promotional video from the 2013 WCRA Hamfest)

Peter Richey N9HDW

QST REVIEW

By Jim Ward, W9DHX



“DO IT YOURSELF” ISSUE

The QST Editors have been saving up all their good DIY projects for a year, so this issue has some real beauties that make you want to plug in your soldering iron and get going! Plus you'll get some great articles about the pioneers who formed the ARRL 100 years ago. Don't let your issue get lost in the Christmas cleanup.

COOKING UP AN HF AMPLIFIER FROM A MICROWAVE OVEN – HOT STUFF!

You have to admire the three veteran contributors to QST who conceived this low cost, high power HF amp. The article's three authors had imagination to turn microwave parts into one of the needs of many hams who want that extra boost on their signal. The article starts on page 30 and fills five pages with photos and instructions. There's also a "Safety First" warning—you are working with HIGH voltage.

AN IDEA THAT CAME “IN A FLASH” – A PHOTOGRAPHER’S LIGHT STAND AND SCREWDRIVER ANTENNA

You've seen those HD light stands they use at weddings to create great effects on the wedding couple. Why not use it as a ground plane to hold a "screwdriver" antenna. That's what gave John Marshall, WA7BSR, the idea for a back yard portable antenna. The tower restrictions in Peoria, AZ held him back from a full size tower. John's story of his conversion of the screwdriver he had on his Jeep begins on page 35 with instructions, parts list and photos.

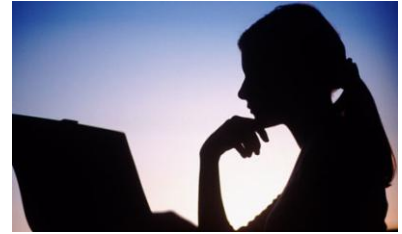
EDITOR GOES “ECLECTIC” IN NEW TECHNOLOGY COLUMN

Steve Ford, the Editor of QST, has started a new column on page 80. Because he is an admitted "techie", he explains it as seeking your readership with the latest developments in the fast moving field of Ham Radio. He is offering you "Toys" for the New Year in the form of the latest hardware or software to satisfy your search for something new to purchase with your Christmas gift money. Good shopping!

DIGITAL EDITION : READERS GET NEW APPS

You probably recall the recent WCRA meeting program where the topic was smartphone apps. Those of you who enjoyed Mike Wilson KC9KHT and John Faber WT9Y reporting on Android (Mike) and iPhone (John) apps that they use, might want to explore a wide assortment on amateur radio apps given in the January Digital Edition. Also, a new Android QST app is available for reading the digital version of the magazine on your Android smartphone, which complements the iPhone version that came out last year. Now, regardless of whether you have an iPhone or an Android device, you can now read the digital QST on your smartphone, tablet or iPad.

Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,

I enjoyed the antique ham radio demonstration you did at the club meeting last week.

How did you know the Blitzworld 110 transmitter was exactly 60 years and 3 months old?

Signed, Antique Hound

Dear Antique Hound,

An old-timer came by when I was demonstrating that same transmitter at a previous show.

He told me the Blitzworld 110 was 60 years old----and that show was exactly 3 months ago.

Got a question for Ann? Ask her at ann.ode@w9ccu.org



Check us out on
FACEBOOK

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

The 2013 Holiday Party

By Jim Ward W9DHX

Once again, Carol Schroeder, KB9FYL, along with co-hostess Ruth Kwarta, KA9RZG, put on a great Holiday party in Carol's lovely Wheaton home. Meeting at a fashionable five o'clock hour, guests enjoyed a before dinner music program by Rick Karney, W9DBX, playing Chet Atkins style Christmas music. A multi-course dinner followed with heavy duty dessert and beverages.



Top Photo: Everyone spreads Christmas cheer at the party.



Linda and Rich Karney, W9DBX sing classic Christmas carols.



Bottom Photo: Ruth KA9RZG admires Carol's KB9FYL's creche.

Help Wanted-Radio Class Trainers

We are setting the date and location for our next tech class and now need to gather experienced hams to help teach various sections. The class will be two days (two consecutive Saturdays) on March 15th and 22nd (9AM to 5PM). Participants will be required to attend both sessions and pre-class reading assignments will be required. We will be using Gordon West class materials. Review pages 16 to 22 for detailed descriptions of these subject areas to know what needs to be covered as described in this pdf: <http://www.haminstructor.com/downloads/TechGuide.pdf> More details to follow. If you're interested in helping out, instructors will be needed for these topics:

Introduction to Ham Radio
About Ham Radio
Call Signs
Control
Mind the Rules
Tech Frequencies
Your First Radio
Going On the Air!
Repeaters
Emergency
Weak Signal Propagation
Talk to Outer Space!
Your Computer Goes Ham Digital!
Multi-Mode Radio Excitement
Run Some Interference Protection
Electrons
It's the Law Per Mr. Ohm!
Picture This!
Antennas
Feed Me with Some Good Coax!
Safety First!

Get with Mark Potter to sign up! Email him at w9uz@arrl.net

Kevin Oleniczak-N9JPG

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARRL

From the ARRL Letter for December 19, 2013:

On the Air: Kids Day is January 5!

The next Kids Day, sponsored by the ARRL and The Boring (Oregon) Amateur Radio Club, will be Sunday, January 5, from 1800 to 2400 UTC. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio satellites to youngsters and let them get some firsthand experience.

Share the excitement with your own children or grandkids or youngsters in the neighborhood! For the youngsters, their positive ham radio experience may foster an interest in getting licensed one day. For veteran radio amateurs, it's a chance to share their love of Amateur Radio and their stations with the next generation.

To attract attention call "CQ Kids Day." The suggested exchange is name, age, location, and favorite color. There is no limit on operating time, and stations may work each other more than once, if the operator has changed.

The suggested HF frequencies are 28.350 to 28.400 MHz, 24.960 to 24.980 MHz, 21.360 to 21.400 MHz, 18.140 to 18.145 MHz, 14.270 to 14.300 MHz, 7.270 to 7.290 MHz, and 3.740 to 3.940 MHz. Repeater contacts (with permission of the repeater's sponsor) are okay too, and satellite contacts may provide a real thrill. Be sure to observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX contacts.

All participants are encouraged to post stories and photos to the Kids Day Soapbox page (www.arrl.org/soapbox) and are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. You can download the free certificate, customized with the youngsters' names, after filling out the Kids Day Survey found on the same page as the certificate generator. Alternatively, you can send a 9 × 12 SASE to Kids Day Certificate Request, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. ARRL Kids Day is always the first Sunday of January and the third Saturday of June.



CQ Hamletter Contributors

A couple of notes-

First of all I want to wish everyone a wonderful 2014 and hope that the year is filled with joy and happiness for each and every one of you. Second, don't be alarmed if you don't see me too often at club meetings or events. I am very busy with my new job but I am still devoted to the club and its Hamletter. Lastly, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT FORGET HAMFEST!!!! Seriously Kurt (KB9RTO) needs lots of help setting up the day before (Jan 18th) and of course day of (Jan19th). So please consider helping him out.

And of course if you wish to submit an article to the Hamletter the deadline is Jan 24th. Please send all articles or questions to me at m2e1990@gmail.com or give me a call 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 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.