



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 606 March 2014



Hey Club Members



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Event Calendar



Sunday Night Nets
20hrs
03/2-N9JPG
03/09-W9DHX
03/16-KA3HSW
03/23-TBA.
03/29-W9BK

03/07 1930 hrs
Monthly Meeting, First
Presbyterian Church,
Wheaton IL.

03/15 & 03/22
09hrs-17hrs WCRA
Training Class, Faith
Evangelical Covenant
Church, Wheaton IL

03/21 2359hrs-
Deadline Hamletter.

Home study first! In two Saturdays, you will be a ham radio operator!

Amateur Radio Class & Exam

Get your entry level ham license in two days
with the help of the
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Saturday March 15th and March 22, 2014

- Study at home in advance using proven and easy study materials and then join us for class for demonstrations and answers to all your questions.
- Pass your ham radio FCC license exam right in class, on the second day!
- Radio demonstrations of internet linking, digital modes with computers and smartphone apps.
- Training on how to operate through local radio repeater systems.
- Live equipment demonstrations, including radio direction finding.
- Multiple-choice examinations with no Morse Code test required.
- Get acquainted with experienced hams from our area.



Book for Class

- Who: You! Adults and youth are invited
When: Saturday March 15th and March 22, 2014
(both dates required for attendance)
9AM to 5PM (bring a sack lunch)
Where: Faith Evangelical Covenant Church
2001 Lakeview Drive, Wheaton, IL 60189
Cost: \$10 for the class (required) + \$15 for the test (optional)
\$20 to purchase the book from the WCRA
Make check payable to the WCRA.
Register: Pre-registration is required by contacting
training@w9ccu.org or phone 630-604-0157



<http://www.w9ccu.org/classes.htm>

Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS February 7, 2014, 1930 hrs

OPENING

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Call to Order | 7:35 PM by President Kevin Oleniczak N9JPG |
| Opening Remarks/Announcements | |
| Approval of Agenda | approved |
| Introductions of Members/Guests | <p>Guests (7): Darryl Hedges, Louis Childers N9LTIW, Lucas Childers KB9UGJ, Seth Rieske, Alex Caswell, Mark Spoo W9NDQ, Mark Decker</p> <p>Members (20): Peter N9HDW, John WT9Y, Mark W9UZ, Jim W9DHX, Colin KD9AHH, Bob W9BK, Tim KC9YFI, John N9MWF, Kurt KB9RTO, Mary KC9IJO, Steve N9OA, Jim KA9ETA, Tom N9CBA, Mike WA9FTS, Doug W9NJM, Phil WA9EMO, Michael KC9KHT, Dale NJ9E, Kevin N9JPG, Carol KB9FYL</p> |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Corrections/Questions | |
| Approval | approved |

OFFICER REPORTS

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| President (N9JPG) | |
| Vice President (N9HDW) | <p>Tonight's program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamvention Youth Forum "Cloaking antenna" video, • John Faber WT9Y "Using EzNEC Software to Analyze Your Antenna Design" |
| Secretary (N9HQ) | absent |
| Treasurer (KB9FYL) | 8800 checking, 15k mm, 24k total. Coming year budget requests needed by April club meeting, for approval vote in May 2014 |
| Property Custodian (NJ9E) | All equipment functioning |

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| RAB report (KA3HSW) | 440 machine pending access to go back up on air |
| Questions & Answers | Snow on the 2m repeater antenna – ok per KB9FYL |

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee chairs are requested to keep reports brief and concise. Please hold any and all questions for continuing business.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| HAMLETTER (KC9IJO) | Thanks to Carol for printing, 2/21/14 next submission deadline |
| Website (N9WBW) | No report, absent |
| Public Relations (W9UZ) | There will be announcement of training classes and monthly meetings in local newspapers commencing shortly. |
| Club Awards (N9MWF) | nr |
| Public Service/Emergency (N9OA) | Upcoming events: Special Olympics last Sunday of April, Wheaton July 4 th parade, |

MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| CSU (N9MWF) | CSU was at WCRA Hamfest. CSU committee requests that borrowed gear be returned in same state as checked out. Please coil the cables, etc. Don't just drop them off unchecked in and leave. |
| Interference (<i>open position</i>) | |
| Training (open) | Mark W9UZ: Upcoming Technician Training Class will be held on two consecutive Saturdays 3-15-14 & 3-22-14 8am – 5 pm. Have 9 instructors. Need students. Using the W5YI / Gordon West license manual – technician. Each instructor will have student manual plus online instructors manual. \$10 + cost of book + \$15 for VEC test on 2 nd Saturday. Flyers are available for posting around town. Pick them up from Kevin N9JPG. |
| VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.) | Next testing session will be 3/22/15 at end of the Technician training class. |
| [Meeting] Program (N9HDW) | 3/7/14 program: Ham Kids in Action video: Balloon Launch to Near Space. Speakers: Ed Worst K9EW and Vern Schultz K9LAE – Winlink 2000 HF email. |
| Club Nets (<i>open position</i>) | Mary KC9IJO is looking for net ops |
| Hamfest (KB9RTO) | Deferred report until end of meeting. Made \$2500 profit, some bills still coming in. A drawing was held at the meeting for Leftover prizes which go to workers: KB9RTO, W9DHX, KC9KHT, W9NJM, N9QGB, N9HDW, W9BK, N9JPG, KD9AHH, ... 820 attendees. Came in below budget \$1000. |
| Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E) | Sold several go kits at WCRA Hamfest. \$100 profit submitted by NJ9E to treasurer Carol KB9FYL at tonight's meeting |
| Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT) | Mike is looking for station captains and cooks. See him or Joe. |
| Holiday Party (KA9RZG) | Nr, absent |
| Membership (open) | See Kevin if interested in serving as Membership Chairperson. New Members by Application: Phil Johnson WA9EMO, Colin Oleniczak KD9AHH (12 yrs age, licensed 1/31/14, passed Technician exam at 2014 WCRA Hamfest), Jim Stuhlmacher KA9ETA, Janie Galena AE9JG. New member acceptance <u>Motion</u> by Jim W9DHX, second by Tim KC9FYL. <u>Approved</u> . Per W9UZ: Phil Johnson was member of club back in the 1960s. |

CONTINUING BUSINESS

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Questions for Committee Chairs | |
| By-laws Amendment | Kevin: revision from attorney under discussion with N9WRO. Hopefully next action in March meeting. Some questions on |

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

NEW BUSINESS

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |

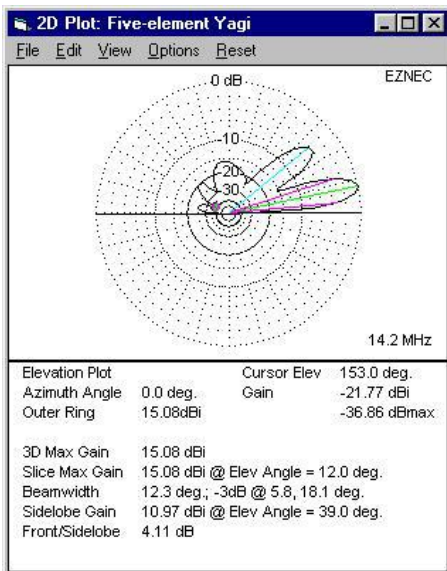
CLOSING

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Anchors | |
| Announcements | <p>STEM-O-RAMA is 5/17/2014. Looking for volunteers to provide a booth. Contact Kevin Oleniczak.</p> <p>Naperville Emergency Management Agency Communications Unit is seeking new volunteer members and would like hams to help. If you have an interest or would like additional information about becoming a member please contact Josh Ashburn at jfa34@att.net or by phone at (630) 961-0254.W9AFA. Presented by Mary Tuohy KC9IJO</p> <p>We received a letter from a person looking for a ham to assist with a high altitude balloon project by providing APRS and transmitter equipment to track it. If interested contact Darryl Hedges at (630) 877-6500 or darrylray@mac.com</p> <p>Darryl was present and described his project and sought participation from club members. Project is in conjunction with Adler Planetarium for launch. DH will get his Tech license, and pay for all equipment. DH has no one else on his team yet. Has approached various other groups (schools, microprocessor group in Glen Ellyn), no takers yet. Adler "Far Horizons" project – high altitude balloons launching group. Several WCRA club members expressed interest to Darryl to follow up.</p> |
| Guest Comments | |
| Member Comments | |
| Adjournment | 8:25 PM |

IN THE NEWS



Long time member John Faber, WT9Y came all the way from a snowy North Carolina to the club meeting in February to tell the club of the EZNEC software program. The EZNEC software program can help model your antenna's range in 3D. All a Ham has to do is plug their antenna information into the program and diagram plotting their antenna's range appears on the screen. For more information and for a demonstration of the EZNEC software go to www.eznec.com. Faber had a few words of caution. First of all he reminded everyone that the models may not always reflect actual reception and Ham's should know their terms when entering the information into the EZNEC software.





THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Members:

The February meeting was a busy and action packed event. A Hamfest volunteer reward raffle, stealth antennas, antenna modeling with EZNEC with John Faber and a number of interesting guests all made for a great meeting! I'm continually encouraged by the enthusiasm and camaraderie I see.

Our technician license class is gearing up into full planning mode and we have a terrific group of instructors lined up. The group represents a very diverse amount of experience and am certain those attending will find their time well spent with us at class.

As you may know, we have an upcoming election for club officers at the April meeting. I will be completing the 2-year term started by others and the position is open for nominations. I've enjoyed leading all of you as your club President and hope you have seen meaningful progress for the club and in a direction you agree with. My intent was to focus on two key points:

- Membership growth
- Preserving the club for the future

While membership growth remains a challenge, as a club we supported several events that stimulated interest in amateur radio and the WCRA. We also sustained key club traditions that bring us together.

As we look forward to the April elections, I intend to run again for the office of President and would ask for your vote! My desires are to continue the same two priorities as noted above, with an emphasis on budget awareness for everyone (with the help of Carol Schroeder our Treasurer). Seeking a more balanced approach to our budget is necessary for a healthy club long term. This will include a mix of modest expense reductions and exploring revenue growth opportunities with our Hamfest.

Thank you again to all that help sustain itself on a regular basis and I'll catch you on the air or at our next meeting!

Kevin Oleniczak - N9JPG

PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

WCRA March 2014 Monthly Meeting

Our monthly meeting will be March 7th, @ 7:30 PM. We meet at the First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, at Jefferson and Ellis Avenues.

Program:

1) Ham Kids in Action: "High Altitude Balloon Launch and Recovery" (video)

2) "Using Winlink 2000 HF Email Program and Network for EmComm and Public Service"

Presented by Ed Worst K9EW and Vern Schultz K9LAE, both of Dupage County ARES

2014 Hamfest - Forum information: Presenter Slides now available on line: wheatonhamfest.org/hamfestforums

9:30 AM "Vacation DXing" presented by John Sweeney K9EL slides

10:30 AM "Alternative Power for Field Day and Other Temporary Stations" presented by Al Sawyer K9ILF slides

11:30 AM "New Developments in HF/VHF/UHF Digital Voice Including FreeDV and System Fusion (C4FM)" slides presented by Warren Pugh KC9IL and Mark Thompson WB9QZB slides

WCRA May 2014 Monthly Meeting

Our monthly meeting will be May 2nd, @ 7:30pm. We meet at the First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, at Jefferson and Ellis Avenues.

Program:

Building Project During the Meeting: "Build A VHF/UHF Dual Band J-Pole Antenna"

Presented by Kevin Oleniczak N9JPG and George Henry KA3HSW. Cost per antenna kit is \$15 and must be reserved in advance.





Hello:

I am the Officer in charge of the Naperville Emergency Management Agency Communications Unit, and I am looking for Licensed Amateur Radio Operators that might be interested in becoming a member of our unit.

The Naperville Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is a subset of the Federal Management Agency, and the Department of Homeland Security. We have several units within NEMA, but the responsibility of the Communications Unit is to provide backup communications support for the Naperville Police and Fire Departments during emergencies or disasters. We also provide communications support to the NEMA Weather Unit.

Our training programs are second to none and we conduct periodic exercises to evaluate the operational readiness of our unit. Our radio room is very well equipped and we have a wide range of HF, VHF, and UHF radios including base stations, mobile units and handhelds. We also have a public safety radio console that operates on all Naperville Police and Fire frequencies. We have radios capable of communicating over ISPERN and with DuPage, Will, and Kane County Agencies. We are also equipped for transmission of photos and forms using EasyPal.

There are a few prerequisites for becoming a member, and I have listed them below:

- Must be an FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operator. Technician class or higher.
- You need not be a resident of Naperville, but must live within a 45 minute response time from the NEMA Communications Center located at 1380 Aurora Avenue, Naperville, IL
- Age 18 or older
- Pass background check
- Not have been convicted of a felony
- Sign "Loyalty" oath
- Be a citizen or legal resident of the United States
- Have a functional command of written and spoken English
- Be in an appropriate physical and mental condition to serve in the unit

- "Pass" an interview with the NEMA Communications Officer

If you have an interest or would like additional information about becoming a member please contact me at jfa34@att.net or by phone at (630) 961-0254.

Thanks, and I look forward to hearing from you.

73,

John Ashburn
W9JFA

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!!
FIELD DAY 2014 JUNE 28TH AND 29TH.

By Joe LeFebvre-N9WRO

2014 Field Day is Right Around the Corner
Despite the snow and cold and wind outside right now, Field Day is right around the corner. Field Day is June 28th & 29th this year and we plan to be at PanFish Park again. (There are rumors the city may try to build on that site.) At the March meeting we will start to gather information about who will be there, stations, Station Captains, etc. so start to think about what you want to do this year for Field Day. The 2014 rules have been published and we will have a copy for the meeting. For more information go to www.arrl.org/fieldday

ELECTIONS!!!!

WCRA BOARD ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL MEETING DATE

By Jim Ward W9DHX

The Nominating Committee has announced that the Annual Election of specific officers will be at the April meeting, as called for in the Club's By-Laws. Co-Chairmen Mark Potter and Jim Ward also reported that the Officers elected for the 2014 year will be that of President, Secretary and Property Custodian for a two-year term.

The By-Law provision of selected officers for alternate years was instituted in order to give the Board continuity, as opposed to all five officers being elected at the same time. At a recent Board Meeting, the following Board Members agreed to stand for election for a two year term: Kevin Oleniczak, N9JPG, President; Ken Kwasniewski, N9HQ, Secretary; and Dale Kwarta, NJ9E, Property Custodian.

The Nominating Committee has received no other nomination from the membership, but nominations are open up to the time of the election. To be qualified to vote in the election members must have paid his or her dues for 2014.

Just a friendly reminder: All members had to get their dues into treasurer Carol Schroeder(KB9FYL) by the January membership meeting. If you have not paid your dues yet you have until April 1st to get your dues in. According to ARTICLE V FORFEITURE OF MEMBERSHIP of our by-laws members may be dropped from membership if annual dues are not paid by the April meeting of each year. Dues are \$26 and look for the Membership Renewal form later in this Hamletter.

Option 1: Keep it the same



Option 2: New Rectangular Design



Optionally, each member can choose whether they want the ARRL logo added at no extra cost.

QST REVIEW

By Jim Ward, W9DHX



By Jim Ward, W9DHX

EDITOR STEVE FORD COLLECTS GREAT STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

This issue of our monthly magazine is great reading. Reproduced on pages 65-71 are selected articles from a post-World War One QST! The struggling group sold “bonds” to keep ARRL alive. The League had a tough time during “the war to end all wars.” From the bottom of the world comes a Maritime Mobile DXpedition to Antarctica (on pages 61-63) and from the middle of the Pacific a DXpedition to historic WW II battle site, Wake Island (pages 91-93). Another rare DXpedition spot—Juan Fernandez Archipelago, off the coast of Chile is reported on pages 89 and 90 and was the inspiration for the book Robinson Crusoe.

SUPREME STEALTH ANTENNA USES PERIPHERAL FENCE AS GROUND RADIAL

David Kruth, WB2HTO, was determined to get a 160 meter antenna on his 100 by 70 foot lot without offending his neighbors’ good taste. He did it with a skinny 25 foot vertical and a heavy duty long wire radial that was attached to his yard fence. Pictures and story are on pages 38-39.

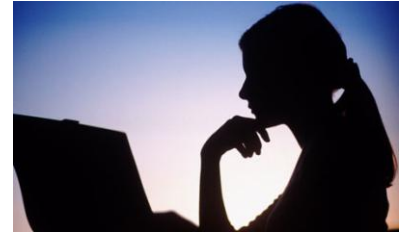
BIG 75 METER MOBILE GETS PERFORMANCE TESTED ON SMALL CAR

Joel Hallas, W1ZR, The Doctor Is In Columnist reported this month on page 53 about a mobile screwdriver antenna comparative efficiency with a center loading coil and capacity hat attachments. Those of you who have struggled with getting on 75 meters from a mobile will be interested in the results. Joel spoke a few years ago at one of our Hamfest Forums.

3D PRINTING ARRIVES! AND HAMS ARE AMONG THE FIRST TO USE IT

Perhaps you’ve heard about 3D printing. It’s the latest way for Hams to get into some unique homebrew projects. If you’re thinking of trying it, an article on page 57 explains the new art form and how to try it out using available kits and software. If you have the Digital Edition of QST you can watch a video demonstration of the MixShop 3D printer in action.

Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,

Last week, I sent my XYL to the amateur radio store to buy me one microphone, and if they have PL259 connectors, buy five.

She came home with five microphones.

Why do you think she did that?

Signed, Overloaded with Mics

Dear Overloaded.

They had PL259 connectors.

Have a question for Ann? Email 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

Help Wanted

My church is looking for 4 10-foot tower sections for stage use, Rohn 25 or equivalent... anybody got some extras laying around, or a tower you purchased and aren't going to put up? Or know of a tower that needs to be taken down?

George, KA3HSW

In my free time I like to write software and lately most of it has been for amateur radio. Recently I had a need program the memories in my Icom IC-910 and after searching online, found that nothing available worked. I wrote an application to communicate with an Icom radio directly with the CIV commands published. Unfortunately, the commands used for memory management are significantly different between different Icom radio models and chose to focus on the IC-910 which I use at home. The app works well and runs on windows.

Features are:

Download existing memories from the radio

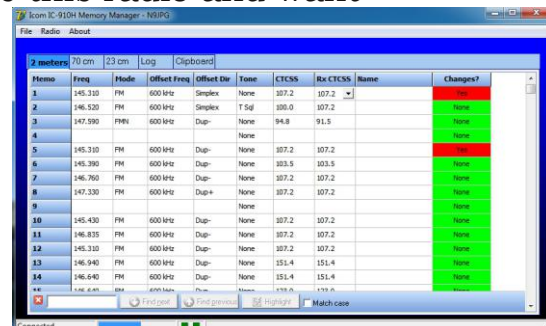
Update and add memories and send back to the radio

Save and recall memory lists from files

Copy and paste memories from popular RT Systems software to make configuration fast and simple

I'm interested in beta testers that may have this radio and want to try it out. Let me know if that's you!

Kevin - N9JPG



The Boy Scouts in our area are organizing a one day event in May to highlight opportunities for youth to get involved in science, technology, engineering and math. Our club would like to participate by sponsoring a booth, but need a few volunteers to do it and lead it. Follow the link below for more information. See Kevin N0JPG if interested.

<http://www.threefirescouncil.org/index.php/activities-mainmenu-36/stem-orama-2014>

HELP WANTED (Continued)

Hi!

I'm in the final stages of completing a personal high altitude balloon project. In less than two months I've gone from nothing, to a completed HAB mission package and am currently waiting for good weather to launch my first mission.

For this first mission, I will be relying on two (2) SPOT Messenger GPS transmitters typically used by people engaging in outdoor sporting activities like camping, sailing, hiking, etc.... But for future missions, I want to use APRS for tracking the balloon throughout its flight. In order to do that, I need a HAM package of components that I am currently not qualified to provide.

I was hoping to find someone in your club who would be interested in joining me as a "Team Member" to oversee and manage the HAM GPS tracking responsibilities for future flights.

What are your thoughts about the best way to get my message out to your membership?

Thanks!

Darryl Hedges
1578 Hunting Hound Lane
Bartlett, Illinois 60103

(630) 877-6500
darrylray@mac.com



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

P. O. Box QSL ● Wheaton, IL 60187-5139 ● Phone/Fax (630) 604-0157
wcra@w9ccu.org ● www.w9ccu.org

DUES

- Full Member \$26
- Student/Sr. Citizen \$13
- Associate (No License) \$13
- Family member of _____ \$39/household
(Call)

Club Badge \$7 Name on badge _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Year _____
 Cash \$ _____
 Ck # _____ \$ _____

Name _____ ARS Callsign _____

Address _____ APT _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone : Home _____ Mobile _____ Work _____

E-mail _____ ARRL Member? Yes No

Signature / Date _____

Sponsor's signature / Call (new members only) _____

*ONLY MEMBERS APPEARING ON THE
OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP LIST AT THE
TIME OF APPLICATION ARE ELIGIBLE
FOR RENEWAL.*

Please indicate events where you would like to assist or serve on the committee

- Hamfest (January) Special Olympics (April) MS Walk (May)
- Field Day (June) 4th of July Parade Christmas Party

Please indicate additional areas where you would like to assist the club

- Website Newsletter Elmering VE Testing Member Retention

Other _____

For Sale



Hour Glass Videography

Peter Richey N9HDW Wheaton, IL
hgvl@comcast.net Phone: 630-690-2846

*Producing Video Memoirs, Personal Documentaries,
Narrated Photo Albums and Custom Videos*

Member of **WCRA** Since **1987**

**Contact Peter to record a video tour of your ham shack:
good for insurance inventory, personal web site, and
Amateur Television demo. Personal and affordable.**

CO Hamletter Contributors

Well, another issue is finally out. I hope you found this issue is informative. Remember the deadline for the April Hamletter is March 21st. Any current and would be board candidates out there who may wish to publish an article in the Hamletter should keep that date in mind. To submit an article to the April Hamletter please email me at m2e1990@gmail.com

Mary Tuohy
KC9IJO Hamletter Editor.

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

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Contributor-Jim Ward (W9DHX)

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(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.