



HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 608 MAY 2014



Good Propagations- Special Olypmics

By Mary Tuohy KC9IJO



Kurt, KB9RTO shadows the main coordinator for Special Olympics

Hundreds of athletes and volunteers descended upon North Central College's Benedetti-Wehrli Stadium for the annual Northern Illinois Special Olympics. Winners from this local event will go down to represent the local area at the statewide competitions in June. Once again the Wheaton Community Amateurs played a critical role as the club provided communications for key areas of the event. This is the 17h year WCRA has helped out the Northern Illinois Special Olympics.

Kurt Rubin (KB9RTO) had the task of shadowing Amy Kaylor, Manager of Sports for the West Suburban Special Olypmics of Illinois who of course was all over the athletic complex at North Central College as she raced back and forth between weightlifting, softball throw and other track and field events. Steve Peterson(N9OA) worked Net Control from the press box at Benedetti-Wehrli Stadium and helped to coordinate the announcements that needed to be relayed to the crowds in the stadium as well as the athletes on the field. John Cheney(W9MWF) helped to coordinate things with the volunteers at the Opening Ceremonies for Special Olympics Dale Kwarta (NJ9E) and Mark Potter (W9UZ) provided communications for the critical First Aid Stations that injured athletes could go to for help. Janie Gallina (AE9JG) worked communications at the main check in table for all of those participating in Special Olympics.

Janie AE9JG communitcates messages from Tournament Central



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Event Calendar

SUNDAY NIGHT NETS
05/4-N9JPG
5/11 W9HDW
5/18 KA3HDW
5/25 TBA

5/2 7:30 P.M
MONTHLY MEETING.
Topic-Build your own Antenna

5/17- THREE FIRES
COUNCIL STEM-O-
RAMA

5/22- HAMLETTER
DEADLINE

6/6 7:30 P.M.
MONTHLY MEETING
Topic-Field Day

6/28& 29-FIELD DAY

Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS April 4, 2014, 1930 hrs

OPENING

Call to Order	Called to order at 7:35pm
Opening Remarks/Announcements	Many guests and new hams are in attendance tonight. Welcome all.
Approval of Agenda	Approved
Introductions of Members/Guests	N9HQ,W9UZ,KC9KHT,N9CBA,W9DHX, N9HDW,KC9YFI,KB9ZFL, KB9RTO,N9DYX,KD9AUK,KD9AUP,WA 9FTS,K9EFT,N9JE,W9NJM, KA0DSF,KA3HSW,KB9RCO,KD9AHH,N 9JPG,KC9ZLS,KD9AUQ, N9OA,N9MWF – GUESTS Mark/N9VDQ, Steve/KD9AUM,Alex/KD9AUQ, Lucas/KB9UGJ, Louie/N9LTW, Tom/KD9AUN & Randy/KD9AUO

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

Corrections/Questions	None
Approval	Approved

OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9JPG)	We had a busy month of March with the training classes.
Vice President (N9HDW)	AES Superfest is tomorrow in Milwaukee. Peter has a coupon that is free for the taking for an ARRL Handbook. Tom N9CBA will conduct the program tonight.
Secretary (N9HQ)	None
Treasurer (KB9FYL)	Absent. The new budget was passed out to the members.
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	The inventory of the CSU is continuing.

MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (KA3HSW)	Both machines are functioning well. A rack mount power supply was donated to the club for the 440 machine.
Questions & Answers	No movement on the COD tower.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

HAMLETTER (KC9IJO)	Absent
Website (N9WBW)	Absent
Public Relations (W9UZ)	Mark will begin working on Field Day soon.
Club Awards (N9MWF)	None
Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)	Special Olympics – April 27 from 0700-1500 at North Central College in Naperville. A clipboard was sent around for volunteer signup. See Steve for details.
CSU (N9MWF)	See new business.
Interference (<i>open position</i>)	None
Training (open)	The training class went very well. 10 of 14 passed.
VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)	Absent
[Meeting] Program (N9HDW)	Tonight's program will feature Tom Geletka and foxhunting. July's meeting will feature a speaker from the DARC club about putting a repeater on the air. June will be regarding Field Day. May's meeting will feature building a J-Pole antenna. Some tools are needed. See Kevin for interest and payment.
Club Nets (<i>open position</i>)	None

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Hamfest (KB9RTO)	January 17 & 18 are the dates of the 2015 Hamfest. Much help is needed. This will be Kurt's last Hamfest as chairman.
Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)	5-6 are available. See Dale.
Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)	Field Day 2014 will be June 28-29 at Panfish Park. Help is needed. 2 more station captains are needed. Volunteers are needed for everything. See Mike. A clipboard was passed around for volunteers.
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	Will be in December.
Membership (open)	3 new members were voted in – N9NYX, KD9AUP, KD9AUK

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	None
By-laws Amendment Proposal	Still being worked on.

NEW BUSINESS

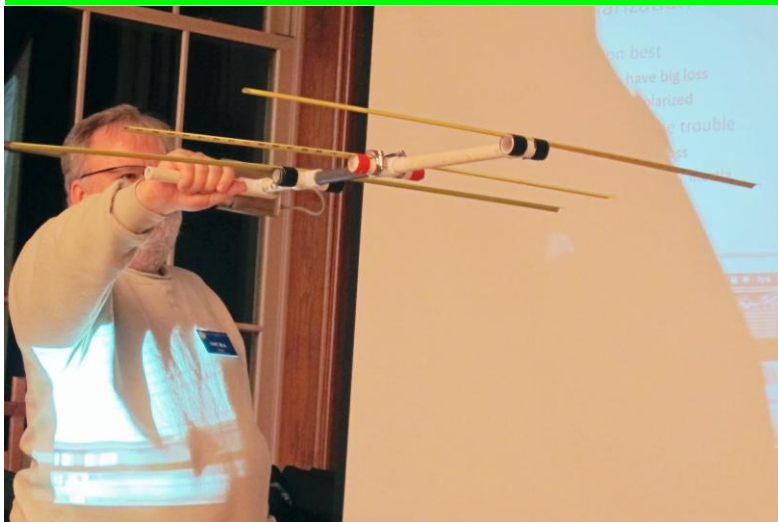
Officer Elections	The existing board has agreed to remain as the club officers. The slate was approved by the members.
Budget	The budget will be voted on at next month's meeting. The budget was distributed to the members. A brief discussion was held.
CSU	The tires and rims are being replaced in the budgeted amount of \$575.00 A motion was made and carried.

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

CLOSING

Anchors	A bin full of electronic stuff is in the back. Help yourself (except Colin!)
Announcements	Hamfest tickets will be raffled off to the new hams.
Guest Comments	None
Member Comments	Bob Elz and Carl Schow are SK. Godspeed gentlemen.
Adjournment	8:20pm

IN THE NEWS!!!!!!



Tom Geletka (N9CBA) shared his love of Fox Hunting with his fellow Hams at the April club meeting. In the photo above he is showing how to track a “Fox” a.k.a. a transmitter set to a specific frequency that one can track using amateur radio equipment. Tom first became involved with Fox Hunting in the late 70’s when he wanted to learn how to track signals. There are several types of hunts: Motor, Pedestrian, and Fixed location hunt. Most Ham need a directional antenna that will generate a loud noise as one gets closer to the transmitter. Tom says the most popular is a three to four element yagi that if used with a regular receiver requires a way to reduce the sensitivity when signals become strong. If you are on foot chasing a fox he recommends a three element tape measure PVC Antenna (see http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm to learn how to build one yourself you’ll also need a signal receiver and one can be found at http://www.foxhunt.com.au/2m_sniffer/manual.htm). To find the fox, Tom recommends sticking to the main roads until you are close. A GPS will provide maps and direction information to the fox although Tom says you shouldn't be afraid to backtrack and find the fox. Fox hunting also has practical radio applications as well such as the time Tom used Fox hunting techniques to find where the source of a signal interference was coming from for Carol Schroeder's antenna.



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We have a few open positions for committee chairman and the RAB. Please let me know if any of these interest you and what ideas you have for them?

Public Relations
Interference
Club nets
Membership
RAB

Please send an email to kevinoleniczak@gmail.com by 6/6/2014 if interested.

PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

WCRA May 2014 Monthly Meeting May 2nd, 2014 7:30 pm

Program: "Build Your Own Dual Band (VHF/UHF) J-Pole Antenna" presented by Kevin Oleniczak N9JPG and George Henry KA3HSW. This is a hands-on building experience during the meeting wherein you can construct your own antenna that evening with parts supplied by the WCRA. Pre-registration and payment of \$15 is required for those desiring to build an antenna that night. No charge for those only helping others.

WCRA June 2014 Monthly Meeting-Our monthly meeting will be June 6th, @ 7:30 P.M.

Program:"WCRA Preparations for ARRL Field Day 2014" presented by Joe Lefebvre N9WRO and Mike Wilson KC9KHT

WCRA July 2014 Monthly Meeting July 11th 2014 @ 7:30 P.M.

(Please note this is one week later than usual due to the 4th of July Holiday.)

Program:"How to Put a Repeater on the Air" presented by Don Hlinsky N9IZU

Peter Richey
N9HDW

SILENT KEYS-ROBERT ELZ N9IRY



By Jim Ward, W9DHX

Long-time WCRA member and attendee at the twice-monthly brunch gatherings, Bob Elz(N9IRY) died on Friday April 4th at the Elmhurst Hospital. He had a long and successful career in electronics and was always willing to lend a hand or offer a bit of good advice.

As with many hams, he got the “radio bug” in high school. His sisters report that he would stay up late at nights and be excited about talking to other hams from coast to coast. After graduating from York High in 1955, he signed up for a three

year hitch in the U. S. Navy. He wrote this for his grandson to read at school on Veterans Day:

“I served in the United States Navy from January 1956 to December 1959, plus two more years in the inactive reserve. I served the first year at Great Lakes Naval Station here in Illinois. This covered ‘Boot Camp’ (basic training), then the rest of the year at Electronics school. I was then assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Randolph, which was in the Mediterranean Sea. To get there I spent three weeks on the Battleship USS IOWA, going from Norfolk, VA., to Majorca, Spain, where I transferred to my aircraft carrier in January of 1957. We were basically at peace during this period of time and our job was to let everyone know that the US had a military presence and was ready to help if necessary. This was the Cold War period of time with Russia. I enjoyed my time in the Navy and was able to see many cities in Spain, France, Italy and Greece.”

Bob worked briefly for Ford and then went to work at IBM, enjoying a 35 year career with the electronics giant. After retiring, he formed his own company, RTE Consulting, and also worked for the Jensen Company, the speaker manufacturer.

Members of the Club extend condolences to Bob’s wife Linda and his many family members. The funeral was held at the First Church of Lombard on April 9th with many of his ham friends in attendance. Several family members inherited Bob’s electronic genes, and plan to keep his ham gear intact, in hope that one of them will go for a ham license and put it to use.

A detailed obituary may be accessed through <http://brustfuneralhome.com>

HAMVENTION ROAD TRIP!!!!!!!

I am looking for an additional one to three persons to join my trip this year to Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio in May. I have one travel companion already and can accommodate up to three more in my RV. We'll stay on site at the Hamvention in the RV, and share travel costs (parking gas, tolls). You cover your own admission, purchases, and meal costs directly unless you want to share meals too, which is a possibility.

Contact me at n9hdw@arrl.net or in person at the May club meeting if interested.

73 de N9HDW,
Peter

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!!

FIELD DAY 2014 JUNE 28TH AND 29TH.

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.) 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.

NEW! Introducing the ARRL Repeater Directory Android App

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QST REVIEW

By Jim Ward, W9DHX



COVER STORY – CHEVY AVALANCHE WITH A CUSTOM LOADED ANTENNA

Jerry Clement, VE6AB, tells all about customizing his silver deluxe pickup with a home- made (parts list included) antenna for 17 meter mobile work. The article begins on page 30 and is a good example of ham craftsmanship at work.

FOLLOW-UP ARTICLE— TEMPORARY MOBILE INSTALLATION IDEAS

If you are nervous about drilling holes in your car, Geoff Haynes, N1GY, has some other ideas for fastening down transceivers. He has some great suggestions on all the aspects of connecting your power, locating your unit, the control head and the antenna. Check out his various plans on pages 48 and 49.

TRANSATLANTIC TESTS—BIG HAM EVENT IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF ARRL

Front page news of the January 1922 issue of QST was a test of getting across the pond to England. Starting in early 1921, U. S. east coast hams sent messages -- nobody came through. The test was a failure. Of course the ARRL wouldn't quit so they sent their own listening team to Scotland. Working on a 1300 ft long wire using 200 meters they finally made it on December 7, 1921. The dramatic story is detailed on pages 72 and 73. Great DX of the 20th Century.

RARE TROPICAL DX ADVENTURE IN RAROTONGA IN THE COOK ISLANDS

It is not unusual for a bunch of hams to head off to a tropical location with a lot of electronic equipment, work a lot of DX chasers and come home with stories of their hardships. However, this month's issue brings a slightly different story. It is written by Yujian David Zhou, a ham from mainland China who is a prominent DX operator. He tells of his visit to the well equipped shack of a local ham couple on Rarotonga; a tropical South Pacific island in the Cook Group! They are Kathy, E51CK, and Andy, E51AND, retirees who formerly lived in Oregon. It was a different type of "expedition". Enjoy the great color photos in the report which can be found on pages 68 to 70.

Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,

I have bad luck when I talk to YL's on the air.

Yesterday, after less than one minute, a YL on two meters abruptly said that she had to sign-out----and did.

Why was that?

Signed, Disappointed operator

Dear Disappointed,

She received an important text message from a telemarketer.



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

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 N9JPG if interested.

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

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CQ Hamletter Contributors

First of all I want to Congratulate Kevin (N9JPG), Ken (N9HQ) and Dale (NJ9E) for being re-elected in their respective positions. Second, I can't believe I am missing a lot of fun meeting topics! I want to thank Tom (N9CBA) for helping me learn more about Fox Hunting and I hope you have fun building your radio antennas this Friday.

And remember, if you wish to get an article into the June Hamletter please submit your articles to me at m2e1990@gmail.com by May 23rd.

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 Kwartta (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.