



HAMLETTER

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Good Propagations- Field Day '14



By Mike Wilson KC9KHT

It's almost here! WCRA will be participating in the 2014 ARRL Field Day, June 28 and 29. Here are the important points up front:

- Field day is a contest, public outreach event, and emergency response exercise all rolled in to one fun filled weekend
- WCRA will be at Pan Fish Park in Glen Ellyn
- The contest will be from 1 pm local time Saturday to 1 pm Sunday
- Setup will start at 7:30 Saturday
- Tear down will start at the conclusion of the contest and typically lasts 3-4 hours
- All hams and interested people are invited, club members or not



We have not changed locations and will be set up at Pan Fish Park in Glen Ellyn, as we have been for the last few years. The entrance to the park is on Park Ave, just south of Roosevelt Rd. Set up will start about 7:30 in the morning, and we could as much help as possible. Last year, we had 6 stations set up which all included at least 1 antenna to be raised. Some stations will also need tents, generators, network cables, and feed lines to be set up. I have found this a great time to learn from the many Elmer's in the club, as well, so experience is NOT required!



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Event Calendar



- Sunday Night Nets-
6/1/14-N9JPG
6/8/14-W9DHX
6/15/14-KA3HSW
6/22/14- OPEN
6/29/14- OPEN
- 6/5/14 10 a.m.-Bi-Weekly Club Brunch.
- 6/6/14 7:30 p.m. Monthly Meeting-Topic Field Day
- 6/19/14 10 a.m. Bi-Weekly Brunch
- 6/20-Deadline Hamletter
- 6/28 7:30 a.m. - 6/29 3 p.m. FIELD DAY-Panfish Park, Glen Ellyn IL.
- 07/04/14 7 a.m. - Wheaton 4th of July parade. 5/3rd Bank Hawthorne & Main St. Wheaton IL



Field Day 2014

Continued

The contest starts at 1800 UTC Saturday and runs through 2059 UTC Sunday (1:00 pm local time to 12:59 pm local time). During this time, we need at least 10 people to operate, log or coach to keep all the stations active, plus 2-7 people to man an information table, keep an eye on fuel levels, cook, and monitor the safety of the event. We will have a Get On The Air (GOTA) station to get new hams, inactive hams, Technicians, and un-licensed people on the radio with a coach at their side. This is an excellent way for new hams to get exposure and learn how to make contacts on HF.

Dinner on Saturday night will be a great time for everyone who has operated, set up, or assisted with operations in any way to take a break and enjoy some great food with their fellow club members.

Teardown will start at the conclusion of the contest and will be finished when everything is put away. The more help we have, the quicker it will all get done! We are still looking for some key positions to be filled, as well. I would like a voice and/or digital caption to replace me, a GOTA caption, and GOTA coaches. If you are interested, please email me at mwilsonemt@gmail.com so we can include you in the planning.

As you can see, Field Day take an enormous amount of man power to complete, and many hands make light work. Even if you only have a little bit of time, your help will be greatly appreciated. If you want to drop in and operate, that's fine, too. If you only have a small amount of time and want to guarantee that you will have a chance to operate and log, please reach out to a station captain to reserve a spot! The captains are Mark Potter (W9UZ) for CW, George Henry (KA3HSW) for satellite, Peter Richey (N9HDW) for voice, and Mike Wilson (KC9KHT) for Voice and Digital. A final sign-up sheet and more information will be presented at the monthly meeting on Friday, June 6th. Field Day is WCRA's second largest event every year, so please come out and support your club.

(To see a list of rules for the contest visit www.arrl.org/field-day)

Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS May 2, 2014, 1930 hrs

OPENING

Call to Order	Opened at 7:42 pm
Opening Remarks/Announcements	We have a busy evening planned.
Approval of Agenda	Approved
Introductions of Members/Guests	N9HQ,N9VDQ,N9OA,KA9HEL,KD9AUK,N9HDW,N9CBA,N9LTW, KB9UGJ,N9JE,AJ9M,W9BK,K9ILF,KA0DSF,N9JPG,KD9AHH,N9MWF, WA9FTS,KA9ETA,AE9JG,KD9AUP,KA3HSW,W9UZ,W9NJM,KB9WBX, KD9AUM,N9LEM,WA9E,NV9R,KD9AHH,KD9AUI,KD9AUN,KD9AUO, KRISH

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

Corrections/Questions	None
Approval	Approved

OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9JPG)	It has been a busy month getting ready with the antenna construction project
Vice President (N9HDW)	Tonight's program will be building antennas.
Secretary (N9HQ)	None
Treasurer (KB9FYL)	The yearly budget is on track for the year.
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	None

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (KA3HSW)	None
Questions & Answers	Carol reports that the tower work is done. Some minor work needs to be done sometime over the summer. The climbers will return to do the work.

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)	None
Club Awards (N9MWF)	None
Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)	The next event will be the Wheaton Fourth of July Parade. The Special Olympics went well. Thanks to all that attended and helped out.
CSU (N9MWF)	New tires and wheels are to be installed soon. The bearings may

MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

	need to be replaced. A mechanic will be looking at them as he mounts the new wheels and tires.
Interference (<i>open position</i>)	None
Training (open)	None
VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)	Janie said that the members who took the test after the training session were extremely well prepared.
[Meeting] Program (N9HDW)	Tonight we are building antennas. June's meeting will be Field Day preparation. July's meeting will feature a presentation about putting a repeater on the air. August will feature a tentative club picnic.
Club Nets (<i>open position</i>)	None
Hamfest (KB9RTO)	Absent. Some minor financial modifications and advertising issues are being discussed.
Radio GO KII Fundraising (NJ9E)	An ad has been placed on a twitter account and the club's Facebook page. There has been nationwide interest so far.
Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)	Absent. Captains and participants are needed.
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	Will be in December.
Membership (open)	6 new members voted in...KB9WBX, KD9AUM,N9VDQ,N9LEM,N9LTW, KB9UGJ

CONTINUING BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Budget	Budget for 2015 approved.
Repeater	During inclement weather, the repeater will be shut down.
Dayton	See Peter if you are interested in going to the Dayton Hamvention.

CLOSING

anchors	None
Announcements	None
Guest Comments	None
Member Comments	None
Adjournment	Adjourned at 8:05 pm

IN THE NEWS!!!!!!



On May 2nd several club members tried to build their own radio antennas. Here KA3HSW shows how to properly measure the antenna's height.

New ham Thomas KD9AUN is all smiles as George KA3HSW helps him assemble his antenna.



Here several hams try and assemble their own antenna's.

PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

**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

FYI: The Bi-Weekly Ham Brunch has moved!!!!

The first and third weekly Brunch has moved their meeting place from Geneva Road to the Glen Oak Restaurant on 479 Pennsylvania Avenue in central Glen Ellyn. Same time, 10 a.m. The next one will be held on June 5th.

The change was prompted by a new ownership. Glen Oak has its own parking lot to the west and south of their building, plus overflow to the south in McChesney's grocery store.

Jim Ward-W9DXH

NEW! Introducing the ARRL Repeater Directory Android App

Locating repeaters is now easier than ever. Grab your phone and go!

ARRL Repeater Directory NEW! The ARRL Repeater Directory® 2014-2015 Edition

The ARRL Repeater Directory includes D-Star and APCO-25, references for operating practices, emergency message handling, tips for handling interference, guidelines for severe weather reporting to SKYWARN/National Weather Service and more...

NEW! Android App included – enjoy 12 months of the full version app!

NEW! Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) listings.

Convenient Spiral Bound Desktop Edition lays flat.

Handy indexing tabs – quickly find the listings you're looking for.

Easy-to-read listings with Repeater notes located right up front.

ALWAYS UPDATED with the latest listings each year!



QST REVIEW

By Jim Ward, W9DHX



Field Day Issue

THREE FIELD DAY ARTICLES DESERVE YOUR ATTENTION! PORTABLE TWO-ELEMENT QUAD INSTRUCTIONS AND PHOTOS

It's not too late to build a field day antenna that is easy to put up and take down. Pete Rimmel, N8PR, has one for you on page 30-32. All materials are available without special orders and he feels you can do the assembly with clamps, wire, and black tape.

LOW PROFILE 40 METER WIRE BEAM IS FIXED DIRECTION – AIM IT NORTHEAST

Larry Serra, N6NC, is a west coast ham who figures he can broadcast to the rest of the US with a fixed beam. So he designed an antenna to fit on his roof—a perfect rectangle! Could it be adapted to a Field Day use? Read about it on pages 36 and 37.

FIELD DAY TEARDOWN: KEEPING IT SAFE WHEN FATIGUE SETS IN

Veteran Field Day reporter, T. J. “Skip” Arey, N2EI, has some great words of advice about safety at the event. He recalls some close calls and why they happened in the haste to pack up and go home. Pages 70-71 have rules to remember at take down time.

PRODUCT REVIEW – THE “STEPP^{IR} CRANK^{IR}” PORTABLE HF AND VHF MONOPOLE ANTENNA

Joel R Hallas, W1ZR, a QST Editor, gives a review of a band new antenna made by Stepp^{IR} in Bellevue, WA. It has a base price of \$398, and extra for accessories, and Joel gives it the once over test at his Connecticut location. He does some interesting comparison with his horizontal antenna while working an International DX contest. Look for the article on pages 51-52.

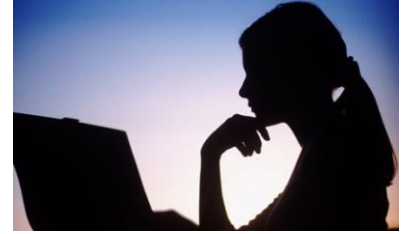
HINTS & KINKS – KEEPING TRACK OF WIRE WITH PULLEYS AND REELS

Editor Steve Sant Andrea, AG1YK, has some clever ideas for keeping wires neat. His well illustrated ideas are on pages 58-60 and will keep you from getting lines tangled.

ANOTHER 100TH ANNIVERSARY STORY – POLAR EXPEDITION HISTORY

Dr. Donald B. MacMillan was the first Polar Explorer to use two-way wireless communication. His early attempts failed, and so he turned to the ARRL for help. Pages 63-65 tell the story of his attempts, as well as a narrative on Admiral Richard E. Byrd, who established “Little America” in the late twenties and early thirties. Byrd's ship was at the Century of Progress in 1933-34

Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,

I heard that a cop stopped you for a traffic violation last week. I heard he was very surprised when he searched your van and saw that you have a .45 automatic next to your 2 meter rig and a 9 mm Glock that you keep inside the air pocket of your mobile low-band rig.

I know you have a concealed carry permit, but what are you so afraid of?

Signed, Wants to Know

Dear Wants,

Not a darn thing!

If you have a question for Ann, please email it to the Hamletter.



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

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.



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.**

CQ Hamletter Contributors

Well I am grateful this month for Peter(N9HDW) who came to my rescue and provided me with some fabulous photos of the Antenna Building project that took place in May. I'm sure those skills set will come in handy as Field Day approaches. Then of course there's going to be the annual Wheaton 4th of July parade that I'm sure we'll be serving at and the club picnic-Boy a lot to accomplish this summer!

So if there is something you want the club to know about (either for summer or any other time of year) please email it to me at m2e1990@gmail.com by June 20th.

Have a great summer!

Mary Tuohy

KC9IJO

Hamletter Editor-in-chief.

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 Kwartka (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.