



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 610 July 2014



## Good Propagations- Field Day '14



Just a reminder that Field Day is this weekend, June 28 and 29, at Pan Fish Park in Glen Ellyn. The entrance is off of Park Blvd south of Roosevelt Rd. The plan is to operate as a 4A station. We will begin set up at 7 am on the 28th, the operating will begin at 1 pm. Sat and the contest will end 1 p.m. Sun. Please come out and support your club.

Just a short list of recommended personal items:

- HT to monitor 147.540 simplex
- Bug spray
- Sun block
- Hat
- Work Gloves (for set up and tear down)
- Rain Gear
- Re-usable water bottle (to cut down on cups)

Talk-in during set up will be on the club 2 meter repeater, 145.3100 (-) with a 107.2 Hz tone. After 1 pm on Saturday, talk-in will be on 147.540 simplex. Please allow time for someone on the site to respond, as we may have to move to a radio on the CSU. Gatorade, water and coffee will be available and meals will be provided. We will be using a bug fogger, however, due to the recent weather, we expect bugs to be an issue still.

See you all on Saturday,

Michael Wilson  
KC9KHT  
WCRA Field Day Chairman



### Inside...

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- Pg 2- Minutes.
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### Event Calendar



- 6/28 & 29- Field Day-  
Panish Park 7 a.m.
- 
- 7/4- 7 a.m. Wheaton  
4th of July Parade.  
Main St and Parkside
- 
- 7/11-7:30 p.m.  
Monthly Meeting.  
Jefferson and Ellis
- 
- July 23rd-Deadline  
Hamletter.
- 
- 8/1 No meeting due to  
club Picnic
- 
- 8/9 4-7 p.m.-Club  
Picnic  
Herrick Lake,  
Wheaton IL

# Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS

June 6, 2014, 1930 hrs

## OPENING

<b>Call to Order</b>	<b>Called to order at 7:33 pm</b>
<b>Opening Remarks/Announcements</b>	<b>Anniversary of D-Day. Jim/W9DHX was recognized as a WWII vet.</b>
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>Introductions of Members/Guests</b>	<b>N9HQ,N9OA,N9LTW,KB9UGJ,N9CBA,N9HDW,W9DHX,KA0DSF,W9UZ,K9ILF,W9BK,KB9RTO,KC9KHT,KC9YFI,N9MWF,KD9AUP,KD9AHH, N9JPG,N9VR,AJ9M,WA9EMO,KA9RCC,NJ9E,N9DKO,WB9VGO, KF5IV,N9BQA,KB9FYL,WA9E,KA3HSW, Guest Mike/KD9VHA</b>

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

<b>Corrections/Questions</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Approval</b>	<b>Approved</b>

## OFFICER REPORTS

<b>President (N9JPG)</b>	<b>Open positions still need to be filled, in particular an RAB position. Public Relations, Interference, Membership and Club Nets are in need of being filled. The monthly agenda will not be printed any more. It will be available at the meeting to be browsed and placed into the Hamletter.</b>
<b>Vice President (N9HDW)</b>	<b>Mike will have a presentation on Field Day this evening. Peter is looking for help in programming assistance.</b>
<b>Secretary (N9HQ)</b>	<b>Name badges are going to be ordered.</b>
<b>Treasurer (KB9FYL)</b>	<b>Balances were given.</b>
<b>Property Custodian (NJ9E)</b>	<b>Nothing to report.</b>

## REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

<b>RAB report (KA3HSW)</b>	<b>Repeaters are operating well. The Tour de Cure will be using the club repeaters this Sunday. Please be courteous and monitor the frequency. The status of the 220 machine is up and running at Roberto's.</b>
<b>Questions &amp; Answers</b>	<b>None</b>

## MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

<b>HAMLETTER (KC9LJO)</b>	<b>Ads are free for members.</b>
<b>Website (N9WBW)</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Public Relations (W9UZ)</b>	<b>We are in many publications within a 100 mile radius of Chicago regarding Field Day. There is an opening for PR.</b>
<b>Club Awards (N9MWF)</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)</b>	<b>A clip board will be passed around for the Wheaton 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Volunteers are needed. The Chicago Marathon is also in need of help. See Steve for details. Mark Potter recommended that the CSU be in the parade.</b>
<b>CSU (N9MWF)</b>	<b>The CSU is being prepped for Field Day. New tires are being installed. Preventative maintenance is needed on the generator.</b>
<b>Interference (open position)</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Training (open)</b>	<b>No report. 7 members are interested in forming a General Class.</b>
<b>VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>[Meeting] Program (N9HDW)</b>	<b>Tonight's program is Field Day. Don/N9IZU will be the presenter next month regarding putting a repeater on the air. Our club picnic will be in August. 18 members are interested. More info to come.</b>
<b>Club Nets (open position)</b>	<b>None This is an open position.</b>
<b>Hamfest (KB9RTO)</b>	<b>Kurt needs help. This is Kurt's last year (2015). Tickets and flyers are being worked on.</b>
<b>Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)</b>	<b>All are SOLD OUT. \$60 profit went to the club treasury. New Go Kit's are being worked on.</b>
<b>Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)</b>	<b>Tonight's presentation to follow the business meeting. Mike is in desperate need of a GOTA captain.</b>
<b>Holiday Party (KA9RZG)</b>	<b>There will be one in December.</b>
<b>Membership (open)</b>	<b>None Open Position. New members Marty/KA9RCC, Paul/N9BQA, Owen/KF5IV. The new members were voted in.</b>



## MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

### CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	Next month's meeting will be July 11 due to the 4 <sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

### NEW BUSINESS

	None
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### CLOSING

anchors	Several items are available for free at the front table including a 1950 edition of the ARRL Handbook for Amateur Radio and a new multi-meter.
Announcements	Roberto has flyers for assorted Hamfests. Peter gave notice about WW1USA (The World War I National Museum special event station which will be on the air through the end of the year see <a href="http://www.ww1usa.org">www.ww1usa.org</a> for details).
Guest Comments	None
Member Comments	There is a D-Day Special Event sponsored by the DARC, from Cantigny, tomorrow. Free for all hams.
Adjournment	Adjourned at 8:15pm

## WHEATON 4TH OF JULY PARADE NEEDS YOU!!!!!!

Fellow members:

In the early morning hours of Friday, July 4, we will once again come together to participate in our longest-running public service events. Please contact me prior to July 2 in order to receive complete details and the public service channel plan. There could not possibly be too many volunteers. My contact information is below

73,

Steve Peterson  
Amateur Radio Station N9OA  
Public Service/Emergency Committee Chair  
(630) 901-N9OA (6962)  
[n9oa@w9ccu.org](mailto:n9oa@w9ccu.org)

# PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

**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

**SAVE THE DATE-CLUB PICNIC-AUGUST 9TH!!!**

Save the Date!  
August 9, 2014

There will be no membership meeting in August as we will be having our annual picnic on Saturday August 9th, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. We will be at Herrick Lake Park in Wheaton. We will be at the west side shelter which is closer to the parking lot than last year.

The picnic is for club members and their family. Additional details will be sent out in the August hamletter and at the July meeting. Save the date and we look forward to some fun in the park this August!

Thanks!  
— WCRA Board

## **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...

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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**



### **NATIONAL CONVENTION**

#### **HARTFORD IS THE SITE - JULY 17 - 19 THE DATES FOR THE CENTENNIAL EVENT**

All the ham radio celebrities will be packed into the Hartford Convention Center for a grand celebration of 100 years of the ARRL. If you can't enjoy it in person, you can read what Harold Kramer, WJ1B, the ARRL CEO, tells all about it on page 13 of this month's issue. The staff has labored long to fill the three days with forums, banquets, and tours to visit W1AW and the ARRL Headquarters in nearby Newington.

#### **ANOTHER STORY ABOUT AN ARRL PIONEER, CLARENCE D. TUSKA - 1896 - 1985**

Bart Lee, K6VK, writes a three page biography on pages 67 - 69 telling of Tuska as a teen ager experimenting with spark coil radio. The youngster met the much older Hiram Maxim about the time Tuska started high school. To fund his hobby, the young experimenter had built a radio receiver, and put it up for sale in a local toy store. Maxim bought the radio! However, he returned it to the store. Tuska and his Mom were disappointed, and Mom insisted that the boy ask Maxim why he returned it. When he was questioned, Maxim explained that he wanted a more professional set. So Tuska built it for him, thus beginning a magic friendship, and development of the concept of an organization - the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

#### **"VINTAGE RADIO" COLUMN RECALLS THE 1952 GONSET COMMUNICATOR**

This "Complete Two Meter Station" was first announced in the December issue of QST and nicknamed the "Gooney Box". The front panel on the 10.2 x 9.2 x 7 inch box contained a "Magic Eye" (6E5) tube, which was an aid for tuning. Bob Allison, WB1GCM, spins this interesting story of the popularity of the versatile VHF-AM transceiver through the "Cold War" era. It was used as a Civil Defense Communicator in bright yellow paint and had a red, white and blue "CD" sticker. You will find the column on pages 95 and 96. Back in the 60's WCRA conceived the idea of building a simpler version of the Gonset as Club project. How many readers remember that?

#### **WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR OWN "RIBBON MICROPHONE" FOR THE SHACK?**

One of the most ambitious do-it-yourself projects in recent QST history can result in a high-quality microphone to broadcast your voice with surprising frequency response. Al Lorena, W6LX, says you can build it with easy to acquire parts and stainless steel water bottle plus a kitchen strainer. The detailed instructions are on pages 42 - 44.

## Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,

I heard that you spent over ten grand on new ham equipment and now you are complaining that you can't pay your other bills on time.

Can't you live within your income?

Signed, A Nosey Ham Op

Dear Nosey,

No. It's all I can do to live within my credit limit.

You can tell your ham radio troubles to Ann at [ann.ode@w9ccu.org](mailto: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

### **Hamfest Needs you.....**

THIS is our club's one & only fundraiser. January 18 2015 is the date. Tickets and flyers are coming soon Grand Prize \$200. If interested in joining this year's Hamfest Committee or just helping out email me at hamfest@w9ccu.org

Kurt Rubin  
KB9RTO



**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.**

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 July 3rd

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



## CQ Hamletter Contributors

I hope everyone survived Field Day and we were successful at the contesting or achieving whatever goals you had for Field Day 2014. Once again I am grateful for Jim Ward (W9DHX) and Peter Ritchie (N9HDW) for their help with Field Day photos.

Now, if you wish to get an article to me for the August Hamletter, please get it to me by July 23rd! This will be a hard and fast deadline! We need to get the August edition of the Hamletter out to promote the upcoming picnic on August 9th. So please email me with articles and/or any questions you may have by July 23rd at [m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com)

Thank you once again

Mary Tuohy

KC9IJO

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](http://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-

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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.