



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly  
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
Issue 611 August 2014



## Good Propagations- Club Picnic

There is no club meeting in August! Instead we are having our annual Club Picnic

### The W's are:

**Who - club members and their families, SOs.**

**Where - Herrick Lake Forest Preserve West Picnic Shelter. Enter off Herrick Road, about 1/4 mile south of Butterfield Road (hwy 56), just south of western Wheaton.**

**When - Saturday August 9, 2014 4 PM - 7 PM**

**What - members are asked to bring according to call sign suffix: A-M salad, N-Z dessert**

Club will provide beverages and meat (chicken and unused leftover bratwurst from Field Day)

Also, members are encouraged to consider bringing personal insect repellent if they deem it necessary. There will also be a Fox Hunt and Ham Radio Charades. Please RSVP to Ruth ([rk warta@aol.com](mailto:rk warta@aol.com)) By August 1st.

Those wishing to participate in the RDF Fox Hunt may wish to bring an HT, but this is optional. For more information email me at [n9hdw@arrl.net](mailto:n9hdw@arrl.net)

Peter Richey-N9HDW



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### Event Calendar



Aug 1st-NO MEETING-Deadline-RSPV for club Picnic.

Aug 9th - 4-7 p.m.  
Club Picnic-Herrick Lake.

Aug 22nd- Deadline Hamletter.

Sept 5th. 7:30 p.m.  
Club Meeting- First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Night Nets  
Aug 3-N9JPG  
Aug 10- W9DHX  
Aug 17 KA3HDW  
Aug 24--????  
Aug 31 ?????

# Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS  
July 11, 2014, 1930 hrs

## OPENING

<b>Call to Order</b>	<b>Called to order at 7:30pm by Peter/N9HDW</b>
<b>Opening Remarks/Announcements</b>	<b>Kevin absent. Peter in charge of the meeting tonight.</b>
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	
<b>Introductions of Members/Guests</b>	<b>N9HQ,N9OA,W9UZ,W9DHX,N9CBA,N9HDW, N9LTW,KB9UGJ,KA0DSF, K9ILF,KB9FYL,W9BK,NV9R,KA3HSW,KD9A UP,WA9ACO,WA9EMO, W9NJM,Bill Morgan (no call),N9IZU (Guest Speaker),KC9YFI,KC9KHT</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>Not Present</b>
<b>Vice President (N9HDW)</b>	<b>The guest speaker was introduced, N9IZU. The presentation this evening will be how to put a repeater on the air. Next month will host the club picnic. There will no meeting in August. September's program will be regarding GPS systems.</b>
<b>Secretary (N9HQ)</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Treasurer (KB9FYL)</b>	<b>The balances were given.</b>
<b>Property Custodian (NJ9E)</b>	<b>Not present.</b>

## REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

<b>RAB report (KA3HSW)</b>	<b>The repeaters are functioning fine. The 39 repeater was put temporarily on the air for the Wheaton parade.</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 (KC9IJO)</b>	Not present.
<b>Website (N9WBW)</b>	Not present.
<b>Public Relations (N9JPG)</b>	Not present.
<b>Club Awards (N9MWF)</b>	Not present.
<b>Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)</b>	A check and letter was received from the Wheaton Park District thanking us for our participation in the 4 <sup>th</sup> of July parade.
<b>CSU (N9MWF)</b>	Emergency repairs were made. The safety chains, battery and braking system was repaired and or replaced. (KC9KHT)
<b>Interference (<i>open position</i>)</b>	None
<b>Training (W9UZ)</b>	A general class licensing is being considered for this fall
<b>VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)</b>	Not present.
<b>[Meeting] Program (N9HDW)</b>	The program this evening is how to put a repeater on the air. ComEd will have an aerial photographer here in either in October or November. An auction poll was taken. The issue was tabled.
<b>Club Nets (KC9YFI)</b>	Please welcome Tim as our new club net committee chair! Tim is looking for Net Control Operators. He would like at least 8 operators for monthly coverage.
<b>Hamfest (KB9RTO)</b>	Not Present.
<b>Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)</b>	Not Present.
<b>Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)</b>	FD went fairly well. Preliminary numbers show lower numbers due to the weather. No loss of equipment or damage to radios. Dale is checking on the 746 Pro finals. The numbers will be available next month. Photos are available and will be placed on the Face Book page, courtesy of Jim/W9DHX. About 214 QSO's were made by the 40 meter station. Many were made by youths, both licensed and unlicensed.
<b>Holiday Party (KA9RZG)</b>	Not Present.
<b>Membership (open)</b>	KD9BFY/Nick was voted in as a new member.

## MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

### CONTINUING BUSINESS

<b>Questions for Committee Chairs</b>	None

### NEW BUSINESS

<b>Club Picnic</b>	<b>August 9, 4pm, at Herrick Lake at the West shelter. Call suffixes A-M are requested to bring a salad, N-Z are requested to bring a dessert. A clipboard was passed around. The club will be providing, chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs. Tom/N9CBA will be conducting a Fox Hunt. Al/K9ILF will be conducting electronics charades. Contact Ruth if you wish to participate.</b>
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### CLOSING

<b>Anchors</b>	None
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>The FRRL is having their Hamfest this Sunday in Aurora.</b>
<b>Guest Comments</b>	None
<b>Member Comments</b>	<b>Gene McAleer is in hospice care. He was and is an active member of the club.</b>
<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>Adjourned at 8pm.</b>





## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Members,

I hope you're enjoying the summer and taking amateur radio with you along the way! The year is moving right along and so is the WCRA. We've had a great first half of the year and have seen a lot of new faces at our meetings. Several new members have invigorated many of us to share our love for amateur radio with them and we've enjoyed their enthusiasm and energy.

If you attended our very successful field day event you saw a real nice mix of veteran and new hams along with a few that experienced amateur radio for the first time. A big thanks goes to Mike Wilson and Joe Lefevre, along with the station captains for organizing!

We are looking ahead to our annual club picnic on August 9th at Herrick Lake in Wheaton at 4 PM. This is always an enjoyable event for you, spouse and/or family.

At our September meeting we will also introduce a proposal to increase club dues. We've shared at our meetings how our annual budget reflects a continual loss year over year primarily due to decreases in our profit from the hamfest. The board has deliberated and has identified a new program that we will present. The proposed program gives members an opportunity to offset annual dues through contributions of time, supporting fundraisers (like the hamfest) as well as donations for necessary budgeted items. We think you'll find the information and opportunities we share in September to be reasonable and creative. A membership vote will occur at a later meeting in accordance with our bylaws as it relates to dues increases.

We're also seeking a successor for Kurt Rubin to chair our 2016 hamfest. Kurt has done a very good job organizing our largest club fundraiser and will be completing his last hamfest for us this coming January 2015. We would like to identify a new leader for this important event so they can start shadowing Kurt to learn the ropes. Let me know if you think you might be interested?

73's

Kevin Oleniczak - N9JPG

# Field Day '14 IN THE NEWS!!!!!! FIELD DAY GOTA IS A HIT!



Al Sawyer, K9ILF, the GOTA station captain, cheers on one of his protégés.

BY: Jim Ward-W9DHX

Station Captain Al Sawyer, K9ILF, reported that eight newly licensed and prospective Hams took microphone in hand and completed 38 QSO's in this year's Field Day. Here are their names and number of contacts they made:

Riley Wilson, prospective licensee and daughter of FD Chairman Mike hit a run and make 21 contacts in a short time. Tony Rossow and Michelle Wheeler each had four contacts. Mason Oleniczak was next with three. Abby Oleniczak, KD9BLP, and her mom, Sheryl, KC9ZLS, each had two contacts. Single contacts were racked up by Seth Rieske, KD9AUI, and Anna Stuhlmacher, KD9DUJ. Anna is home from her Freshman year at Boston University.

With the help of the antenna workers, Al got his Vertical working on 15 meters and set up at the entrance to Panfish Park.

Doug Totel, W9NJM, is at the mike with Seth Rieske, KD9AUI, logging on 40 phone.







Dale, NJ9E, fine tunes the 20 meter phone beam on the CSU roof

On 20 phone Tim Wheeler KC9YFI at the mic and Abby, KD9BLP, is logging.



Peter-N9HDW giant motor home flew three mast/flagpoles, US, Canadian and Mexican banners



Dale NJ9E-Shows a young Ham how to make contact and log items in book.

George Henry, KA3HSW, with the "Pinzgauer", Swiss Army Troop Transport



Some Hams choose to relax in the summer sun and let their laptop make the connections for them.



## **QST REVIEW**

### **By Jim Ward, W9DHX**



### **RECORD-SETTING CROWD VISITS MECCA OF HAM RADIO IN LARGE NUMBERS**

Nearly 25-thousand hams visited Dayton this year for the ARRL Centennial Year Hamfest celebration, surviving through sunshine, rain and even hail! You can pick up the spirit of the event by reading Becky Schoenfeld's ( QST's Managing Editor) report of the events on pages 65 and 66 of this month's issue. Many photographs record the Award winners and radio celebrities. The actual birth-date (May 18th) fell on the last date of the convention, so the theme of the final event was "Happy Birthday" with cupcakes being passed out to the crowd by the League staff.

### **TAPE MEASURE VERTICAL ANTENNA SHOWS TOOL BOX ITEM IN NEW ROLE**

If you have heard of "Fox Hunting", you've seen the inexpensive beam that can be built from the flexible steel metal tape that coils up after the measurement job. This month's QST article by Glen Thibodeaux, KF5FNP, will surprise and amaze you. He starts with a 25' tape measure and turns it into an antenna that can be adjusted for 15, 17, and 20 meters by adjusting the pull-out length of the tape! Glen provides "how-to" instructions for the antenna which he hangs on a tree limb. Based in Southern Louisiana, Glen gets good signal reports from the Caribbean and Gulf area and finds a perfect companion for "go kit" radios. The article is on pages 33 to 35.

### **LOOKING AT A GIANT FEMA EXERCISE IN THE 49TH STATE**

Rick Palm's Public Service column this month on pages 72-73 is devoted to a report on a major FEMA exercise in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the great earthquake of 1964. The original event was on Good Friday. The column treats the story from the FEMA observer's point of view, as well as the Ham Radio Operator's outlook from Linda Mullen, AD4BL of the Ham Radio Team of Wasilla. The simulated "patient" evacuation was accomplished by Air National Guard C-130 Transport planes.

### **RADIO OPERATOR IS HERO OF FAILED ITALIAN POLAR EXPEDITION**

Not many will remember the cruise of the Italian airship ITALIA to the North Pole in 1927. Mario Marinaro, WN1M, recalls it for us on pages 63 and 64 this month's QST. The 385 foot dirigible crashed during an exploration of the North Pole 184 miles from the nearest base in King's Bay, Spitsbergen. The harrowing tale of Giuseppe Biagi, the ship's radio operator, and his successful radio calls for rescue are an inspiration for those who attempt to "do good works" with their radio skills. Those who made it home from the crash included eight crewman and their mascot, a fox terrier.

## Dear Ann Ode...



**Dear Ann Ode,**

I saw you at the Las Vegas Hamfest recently. Within just 2 hours you won every sweepstakes and raffle you entered. Did you have similar good luck with the slot machines?

Signed, I'm Not Lucky

Dear Not Lucky,

Not really. I was so ecstatic with all my prizes that it took me another hour to realize that I lost \$75 to a postage stamp machine.



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](mailto: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*

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**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 August 7th

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-W9DHX](#)



## CO Hamletter Contributors

Boy the Summer is flying by. I hope everyone has fun at the club picnic. Hopefully I will see you all in September.

Speaking of September-The deadline for the September Hamletter is **August 22nd**. Please email all submissions to [m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com) by midnight.

Thank you to all who have given to the newsletter so far.

Sincerely

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](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

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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.