



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 612 September 2014



Good Propagations- NEW HERRICK LAKE WEST SHELTER HOSTS ENTHUSIASTIC WCRA GROUP

By Jim Ward W9DHX



(Above) Everyone Enjoys the Food at the Annual Picnic.

(Below) Tom (N9CBA) Instructs Bill (KD9AUP) on how to properly hunt Foxes.



(Right) "Is there a smaller size?" is the question from a young fox hunter.

Ruth Kwarta, KA9RZG, fancied up the rustic picnic tables in the newly built West Shelter with red tablecloths, and a crowd of hams and friends brought in their favorite salads and desserts. Add fried chicken, hot dogs and beverages and you have a great "spread". Squeeze in some "Fox Hunting" to work up an appetite, then you can start the chow line. That was the program for the August 9th "Annual Ham Picnic" at Herrick Lake.



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Event Calendar



Sept 5th-7:30 p.m.- Club Meeting-Topic- "GPS Overview"

Sept 18th- Deadline Hamletter

Oct 3rd-7:30 p.m.- Club Meeting

Oct 12th-Chicago Marathon

Oct 4th and 11th- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Amateur Radio Tech Class

Oct 17th-18th-JOTA



Add a few extra helpings and second and third desserts. You are now ready to be entertained. However, you find that YOU are the entertainment, with EmCee of “Ham Charades”, Al Sawyer, K9ILF, calling you out of the audience to try and amuse the guests with non-verbal clues and antics.

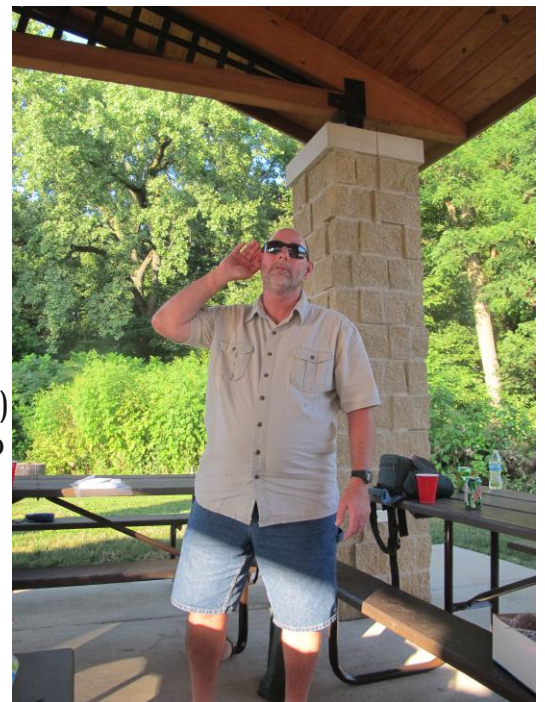
As the photos indicate, the human figure can, if properly manipulated and arms positioned correctly by Club President Kevin Oleniczak, N9JPG, indicate a “J-Pole”. Lou Childers, N9LTW, used a “hand to ear” gesture to indicate “audio level”.

(Above) Al Sawyer, K9ILF, gives a young player some hints.



Kevin Oleniczak, N9JPG, (Left) becomes a human “J-pole”.

Lou Childers, N9LTW, (Right) does an “audio level” gesture.



After the show everyone cleaned up the trash, picked up what was left of the food, and called it another successful Annual Picnic. Thanks to Hostess Ruth and Program Committee Chairman/Vice President Peter Richey, N9HDW.

Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS
July 11, 2014, 1930 hrs

OPENING

Call to Order	Called to order at 7:30pm by Peter/N9HDW
Opening Remarks/Announcements	Kevin absent. Peter in charge of the meeting tonight.
Approval of Agenda	
Introductions of Members/Guests	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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

Corrections/ Questions	None
Approval	Approved

OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9JPG)	Not Present
Vice President (N9HDW)	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.
Secretary (N9HQ)	None
Treasurer (KB9FYL)	The balances were given.
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	Not present.

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (KA3HSW)	The repeaters are functioning fine. The 39 repeater was put temporarily on the air for the Wheaton parade.
Questions & Answers	None

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.

HAMLETTER (KC9LJO)	Not present.
Website (N9WBW)	Not present.
Public Relations (N9JPG)	Not present.
Club Awards (N9MWF)	Not present.
Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)	A check and letter was received from the Wheaton Park District thanking us for our participation in the 4 th of July parade.
CSU (N9MWF)	Emergency repairs were made. The safety chains, battery and braking system was repaired and or replaced. (KC9KHT)
Interference (open position)	None
Training (W9UZ)	A general class licensing is being considered for this fall
VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)	Not present.
[Meeting] Program (N9HDW)	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.
Club Nets (KC9YFI)	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.
Hamfest (KB9RTO)	Not Present.
Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)	Not Present.
Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)	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.
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	Not Present.
Membership (open)	KD9BFY/Nick was voted in as a new member.

MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	None

NEW BUSINESS

Club Picnic	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.
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CLOSING

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

PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

Club Meeting Friday September 5, 2014:

Hal Jackman, formerly the Chief of Staff for the United States Air Force Global Positioning Systems Directorate, will present the program, "GPS Overview".

Peter Richey N9HDW



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Members,

First off a big thank you to Ruth KA9RZG, Peter N9HDW, Al K9ILF, Tom N9CBA and Sheryl KC9ZLS for organizing the club picnic last month. The location, weather and food were great. It was good to meet family members, share stories and catch up.

I shared an email with you regarding our interest in pursuing a policy for online content and you'll find that draft in your email before the club meeting in September. Please review and take note of particular questions or comments you want to share. We'll gather a little feedback during the meeting, but otherwise will incorporate it afterwards in a revised proposal.

Last month in the Hamletter I referenced the need to pursue a dues increase to balance our annual budget. The details and options associated with this effort are many and the exec board has been reviewing options. We've decided to delay the proposal a bit and share the financial statistics we've gathered first to gather feedback and possibly some new ideas we may not have considered. Our hope is to gather that feedback after the meeting for a few weeks and then return in October with a proposal that can be pursued per the bylaws. I'll share the information via an email to members prior to the meeting and ask that you review it carefully prior to the meeting.

Finally, Mark Potter W9UZ is leading the club's efforts to hold two ham license training classes this fall. A technician class will be held just as we did this past winter on the first two Saturdays in October. A general license class will be held the first two Saturdays in November. Both will use the Gordon West materials and instructors are needed! Get with Mark to upgrade to the General license or be an instructor for either class!

Kevin - N9JPG

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

Amateur Radio Class & Exam

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

Saturday October 4th and October 11th, 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 FCC Amateur Radio Technician 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 October 4th and October 11th, 2014
(both dates required for attendance)
9AM to 5PM (bring a sack lunch)
- Where:** Faith Evangelical Covenant Church
2001 Lakeview Drive, Wheaton, IL 60189
- Prestudy:** Complete the study guide before class starts found here:
<http://w9ccu.org/tctechprestudy.pdf>
- Cost:** \$15 for the class (required) + \$15 for the test (optional)
\$20 to purchase the book online (Amazon)
Make check payable to the WCRA for \$15 to reserve a spot
- Register:** Pre-registration is required by contacting training@w9ccu.org or
phone 630-604-0157



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



IT'S JOTA TIME!!!!



Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) is coming up October 17-19. I'm looking for one or more volunteers to lead the effort for JOTA this year. It could be done at your home (it would likely not be a club call event in that case) or out in a park somewhere. There is no budget established for this, so it may be a simple event. Advertising can be coordinated via email with local scout troops which I can assist you with. Let me know before the October meeting. Email: kevinolinecizak@gmail.com
Kevin - N9JPG

Hamfest 2015

Just a Reminder Club Member's Hamfest is coming up so please see Rich N9DKO he has the tickets to sell in advance of the event. We need help the night before to set up, during Hamfest itself and tear down after the Hamfest is over with. Proceeds from the sale of Hamfest tickets and Vendor Tables help with our club stuff. Tickets can be sold as raffle tickets with a \$200.00 Grand PrizeDrawing to be held at 1:00 pm on Hamfest day and winner need not be present for that drawing. Email me at hamfest@w9ccu.org
To help or learn more.

Kurt
KB9RTO

Chairman Hamfest 2015

QST REVIEW **By Jim Ward, W9DHX**



COVER PHOTO GIVES YOU A HINT ABOUT SOME GREAT PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS

Tammy Scheirman, VA6TSS, is shown in the front passenger seat of her car with every emergency radio device you could imagine, ready to use in practice or real crisis conditions. She belongs to the Foothills Amateur Radio Society of southern Alberta Canada. This was taken by Jerry Clement, VE6AB, during a mock disaster exercise.

UNUSUAL MS CHALLENGE WALK GETS GREAT TURNOUT ON CAPE COD

Mark Richards, K1MGY, gives a great three-page report of a very intensive fund raising walk with 750 participants and 200 volunteers. Starting on page 72, Mark details the activities, planning, and special equipment prepared for conducting a charity public service event. Unique to this event was the use of bicycle mobile equipment that carried first aid equipment and other supplies right along the trail with the walkers and wheel chair participants.

DXPEDITION BY DUTCH HAMS SUPPORT MERCY SHIP'S CONGO MISSION

One way to find a site for a DXpedition is to make a connection with a Hospital ship that is located in a far distant land. Arie Kleingeld, PA3A, gives us a first person report of a 20 hour flight from Rotterdam to the Republic of Congo to go aboard the charity hospital ship Africa Mercy. A week of volunteer work on the ship put the ship's GPS network for their patient pickup vehicles in shape. With that task done, the team of four hams set out to have some DX time in the nearby jungle area. The four-page story begins on page 69. In the 11 days of operating, they had 30,000 contacts, using the call TN2MS.

THE DAWN OF SINGLE SIDEBAND - AND THE STORY OF THE DRAKE MODEL 1-A

Ken Pollack, K2RP, the editor of the Vintage Radio Column starting on page 95, explains in detail this month how SSB got started between the 1950's and 1960's. Hams today take this mode for granted, but SSB didn't happen overnight. Today's popular phone technique had blossomed in the late 40's with struggling homebrew SSB transmitters going on the air. QST published a column called "On the Air with Single Sideband". Even more amazing was the fact that no major manufacturers jumped at the chance to produce SSB transmitters and receivers! Central Electronics was first, soon followed by the ham radio giant Hallicrafters. Collins Radio came on the scene with their classic KWM-1 and KWM-2. Collins also pioneered the radical idea of combining the transmitter and receiver into a single device, the transceiver. Then came the low cost Drake 1-A Receiver advertised in December 1957 QST for only \$259. Read the rest in the actual issue!

Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,

I heard that we have a new ham radio equipment repairman in town. What do you know about him?

Signed, Wondering

Dear Wondering,

I know that when he recently went on jury duty in a fraud case; they found him guilty.

(You can tell your ham radio troubles to Ann 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



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 September 4th

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

WCRA 48TH ANNUAL MID-WINTER HAMFEST

ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET COMPUTERS AND PC PARTS & OTHER GADGETS AMATEUR RADIO EXPOSITION

FEATURING

- Free Parking
- Heated Indoor Facility
- Paved Parking Lot
- Food
- Amateur Radio Exams
- Educational Forums



An ARRL Hamfest

Tickets:

Advance, 4 raffle stubs \$8

At the door, 1 raffle stub \$10

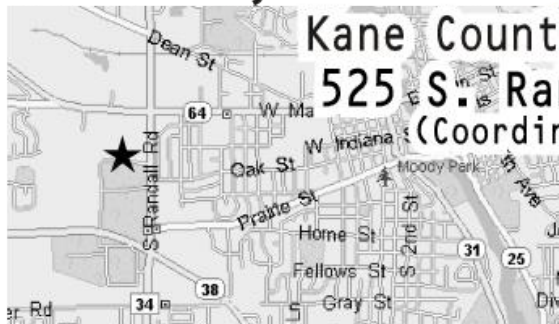
Children under 12 admitted at no charge

Exhibit Floor Rental:

\$25/table (\$30 after 1/7, if available)

Electricity available for \$10

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2015 Doors Open 8AM



Kane County Fairgrounds Expo Center
525 S. Randall Rd., St Charles, IL
(Coordinates: N 41.9056, W 88.34232)

www.wheatonhamfest.org

(630) 604-0157

INFO@W9CCU.ORG



Advance Ticket and Flea Market Table Order Form

Name _____ Call _____ Tickets @\$8.00 = \$ _____

Address _____ Tables @\$25.00 = \$ _____

Electricity (\$10.00) \$ _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please include an e-mail address so that we can confirm your order along with an SASE for delivery of tickets..

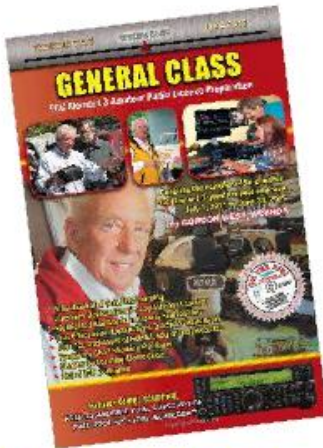
Mail to: WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60187-1055

Home study first! In two Saturdays, you will have expanded HF privileges!

Amateur Radio Class & Exam

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

Saturday November 1st and November 8th, 2014



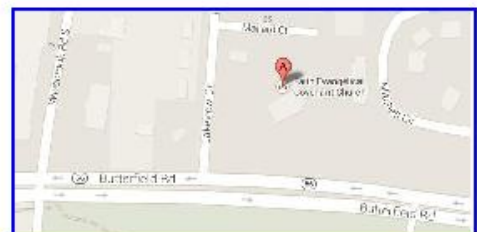
Book for Class

- After you've passed the Technician license, join us for the General license class to get many more privileges on the worldwide HF bands
- 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 FCC Amateur Radio General license exam right in class, on the second day!
- Radio demonstrations and theory presented in an easy to understand way
- Multiple-choice examinations with no Morse Code test required.
- Get acquainted with experienced hams from our area.

-
- Who:** You! Adults and youth are invited
- When:** Saturday November 1st and November 8th, 2014
(both dates required for attendance)
9AM to 5PM (bring a sack lunch)
- Where:** Faith Evangelical Covenant Church
2001 Lakeview Drive, Wheaton, IL 60189
- Prestudy:** Complete the study guide before class starts found here:
<http://w9ccu.org/tcgenprestudy.pdf>
- Cost:** \$15 for the class (required) + \$15 for the test (optional)
\$22 to purchase the book online (Amazon)
Make check payable to the WCRA for \$15 to reserve a spot
- Register:** Pre-registration is required by contacting training@w9ccu.org or
phone 630-604-0157



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



CO Hamletter Contributors

To my loyal Hamletter readers: I know I messed up big time when I misspelled Peter R-I-C-H-E-Y's (N9HDW) name last month. Once again Peter, please accept my sincerest and humblest apology for misspelling your name in the August Hamletter. I promised that I would do better and I hope that this month's edition of the Hamletter has arrived to your inboxes in a timely manner.

I also wish to apologize and once again praise Jim Ward (W9DHX). I transposed his call sign in one of the articles last month. I know that I would be completely lost as an editor if I didn't have Jim around to cover events my job prevents me from covering like the club's picnic.

So if you wish to submit an article for the October Hamletter please submit it by September 18th to 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 Kwarta (NJ9E)

HAMLETTER

Editor-
Mary Tuohy KC9IJO Email-
m2e1990@gmail.com
Contributor-Jim Ward (W9DHX)

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P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
(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.