



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 613 October 2014



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Members,

At last month's meeting we reviewed the online content policy proposal and have drafted a revised version which you will receive via email before the October meeting. I believe we will have a vote on the new proposed policy at that time.

We also had a brief discussion on the budget challenge we face and responded to requests for additional information. An updated document will be shared with members via email before the October meeting.

Our two classes for the Technician and General license are coming up in October and November respectfully. Let your family and friends know about the classes and offer to help teach a section for an hour or two. This is truly one of the best ways to grow the club and give something back to the amateur radio community.

Kevin - N9JPG

### Inside...

Pg 1 President's Letter  
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### Event Calendar

**10/3 19:30 hrs- WCRA Meeting**

**10/4 09:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs Tech Class Session 1**

**10/11 09:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs Tech Class Session 2**

**10/12 Chicago Marathon**

**10/24 Deadline Hamletter**

**11/1 09:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs General Class Session 1**

**11/7 19:30 hrs WCRA Meeting and Club Auction**

**11/8 09:00 hrs-17:00 hrs General Class Session 2**

# Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS  
September 5, 2014, 1930 hrs

## OPENING

<b>Call to Order</b>	7:35pm
<b>Opening Remarks/Announcements</b>	
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	Approved
<b>Introductions of Members/Guests</b>	N9JPG, N9HDW, NJ9E, KB9FYL, WA9EMO, W9DHX, W9NJM, N9NTX, KC9YFI, WA9ACO, K9ILF, W9BK, N9BT, W9BED, KC9KHT, KA3HSW, N9OA, N9CBA, N9DKO, WA9FTS, KD9AHH, KC9ZLS, AC9CN, KD9AUP, AC9MM, KD9BKX, WA9E

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

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

## OFFICER REPORTS

<b>President (N9JPG)</b>	No report
<b>Vice President (N9HDW)</b>	Topics coming up are High Altitude Ballooning with ham radio and our annual club auction in November.
<b>Secretary (N9HQ)</b>	No report
<b>Treasurer (KB9FYL)</b>	Balances given
<b>Property Custodian (NJ9E)</b>	No report

## REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

<b>RAB report (KA3HSW)</b>	The RAB has applied for and been approved to receive a trial Yaesu Fusion repeater with associated demo radios. George notified the club the due to new work related needs, he cannot lead the
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## MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

	RAB as chairman and has resigned that position. He remains a standing committee member of the RAB. The group will seek to determine a new chairman amongst themselves. George noted that it has been a honor to serve the club as RAB Chairman.
<b>Questions &amp; Answers</b>	

### 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>	No report
<b>Website (N9WBW)</b>	No report
<b>Public Relations (N9JPG)</b>	Ads posted on free sites to promote the meetings and our training class.
<b>Club Awards (N9MWF)</b>	No report
<b>Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)</b>	October 12 <sup>th</sup> is the Chicago Marathon. Our club has more than enough volunteers to assist with our designated aid station. If you are still interested, there may be needs at other areas for the event.
<b>CSU (N9MWF)</b>	No report
<b>Interference (<i>open position</i>)</b>	No report
<b>Training (W9UZ)</b>	Two classes coming up; Technician in October and General in November. Instructors are needed for both.
<b>VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)</b>	Testing will occur at both classes on the second Saturday of both months.
<b>[Meeting] Program (N9HDW)</b>	Peter is looking for one more volunteer to serve on this committee and help with meeting setup.
<b>Club Nets (KC9YFI)</b>	Tim is looking for a fulltime net operator to handle one Sunday each month for the net.
<b>Hamfest (KB9RTO)</b>	New flyers are available. Two versions; traditional and general electronics themed.



## MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

<b>Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)</b>	Dale needs five volunteers to help build a new batch of kits with the new updated design.
<b>Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT)</b>	Score was 2922 points. Nice job! Mike informed the club that due to family obligations he is stepping down as co-chair for Field Day.
<b>Holiday Party (KA9RZG)</b>	No report
<b>Membership (open)</b>	AC9CN - Steve and KD9BLP - Abby were voted in as members. Welcome!

### CONTINUING BUSINESS

<b>Questions for Committee Chairs</b>	None
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### NEW BUSINESS

<b>Club Nets Chairman Appointment</b>	Tim Wheeler KC9YFI – Confirmation vote was approved
<b>RAB Appointment</b>	Roberto Beltramelli WA9E – Confirmation vote was approved
<b>Hamfest Chairman Appointment</b>	Bob Krueger W9BK – Confirmation vote (effective February 2015) was approved
<b>Online Content Policy</b>	Good discussion occurred. The feedback received offered a few suggestions which will be incorporated in a revised draft sent for membership review.
<b>Budget/Dues Discussion</b>	A brief introduction of the situation and supporting data was provided by Kevin. Discussion occurred around the expenses (mainly insurance). A request for the approved budget to be included was received. Additional information will be provided in an update to the membership for their review and discussion will resume at the October meeting.

## Meeting Minutes (Continued)

### CLOSING

<b>Anchors</b>	Skipped due to a motion and subsequent vote that approved the immediate ending of the meeting so that the program could start and finish on time.
<b>Announcements</b>	Skipped
<b>Guest Comments</b>	Skipped
<b>Member Comments</b>	Skipped
<b>Adjournment</b>	8:30pm

## PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

### October 3, 2014 Monthly Meeting

Program:

"THE FASCINATING AND FUN WORLD OF HIGH ALTITUDE BALLOONING"  
presented by Darryl Hedges KD9AUK

### November 7, 2014 Monthly Meeting

Program:

Members' Radio Gear and Computer Auction

### December, 2014 Monthly Meeting

#### No Meeting:

Holiday Party - Coordinated by Ruth Kwarta KA9RZG - details TBA

### January 9, 2014 Monthly Meeting

Program:

Hamfest Final Preparations - Presented by Kurt Rubin KB9RTO and the Hamfest Committee

***Peter Richey (N9HDW)***

# IN THE NEWS



Shown to the left is Hal Jackman, formerly Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force Global Positioning System Directorate. Jackman presented a well-documented program entitled "A GPS Overview." His Power Point presentation gave the history of Navigation from the use of the Sextant to the current Satellite powered GPS of today that we can use in our cars and cell phones. A lively question and answer session followed. To learn more go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BHPOuwaPOw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BHPOuwaPOw)

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[Photo Caption Provided by Jim Ward W9DHX](#)

## 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 to 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 Prize. Drawing 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](mailto:hamfest@w9ccu.org) to help or with questions.

**Kurt**  
**KB9RTO**

### **Chairman Hamfest 2015**

A portable sound system is needed for the forums at our upcoming Hamfest in January. If you have some gear and would be willing to allow the club to use it for the weekend of January 19, 2015, please contact Peter N9HDW ([n9hdw@arrl.net](mailto:n9hdw@arrl.net)). If you are available to run your sound system that would be great, too, but not required. Needed: amp, 2 speakers, wired mic, wireless mic, cables, (mixer) for 75 ft by 25 ft room holding 70 people.

**Peter**  
**N9HDW**



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](mailto:training@w9ccu.org) or  
phone 630-604-0157



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





## **QST REVIEW** **By Jim Ward, W9DHX**

### **CONVENTION PHOTO REPORT REVEALS INTERNATIONAL HAM CELEBRITIES**

If you didn't make it to Hartford for the big blowout, the Centennial photographer was hard at work to cover the event with 18 photos and descriptions of hams and their guests. Pages 6 - 8 give you the photo report, with four more pages of narrative and photos edited by Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, on pages 76 - 79. There was plenty of excitement at Hartford and League Headquarters in Newington, Conn.

### **HALLOWEEN SURPRISES AND NEW HOME HAM FURNITURE**

Steve Ford, QST Editor's Up Front Column on page 20 shows a scary pumpkin carved with a Morse Code message to frighten you. The page also features a great "moving in" furniture cabinet suggestion in case you are eager to keep your ham station in harmony with the living room furniture.

### **THEY ARE MAKING THEM YOUNGER – 13 YEAR OLD IS DXPEDITION STAR**

Her name is Adrienne Morrill, KG7HYD, and she is a junior high student in Spokane, WA. She is from a "ham family", with Mom, Dad, Sister and Brother all licensed. With her Dad, Aaron, AE7DM, planning to go to Guatemala on a mission trip, it was only natural that Adrienne would go along and make a DXpedition out of it. A sturdy "pelican" suitcase carried all the radio gear on the plane. When the Daughter and Dad team arrived at the small Guatemalan island of Flores, they set up on the balcony of their hotel, using the local power. You'll enjoy their story of the adventures of getting licensed for local operation and exploring the jungle, complete with ancient Mayan temples. It is on pages 68 - 70.

### **DO YOU KNOW THE HISTORY OF THE FM REVOLUTION?**

Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, conductor of the Vintage Radio column on pages 98 - 99, tells the interesting story this month of how unwanted commercial transceivers sparked a massive change in Amateur Radio. In the late 1960s the FCC made some rule changes. Commercial operators (police departments and taxi operators) were forced to abandon their old radios and adopt newer technology. The result was a flood of surplus gear! Savvy hams snapped up the old radios for pennies on the dollar and converted them to the ham bands, primarily 2 meters. Soon manufacturers caught on and created FM gear designed for the ham market. The growth of the "fun mode" grew from making point to point contacts and then using the "repeaters" which we enjoy today. What a history!

(Editor –fifth article is optional for use—depending if you have room)

### **OCTOBER IS THE MONTH TO SHARPEN DX SKILLS – CONTESTS GALORE**

Just to give you an incentive to try your hand, Bernie McClenny, W3UR, gives you some big suggestions on DX activities this month in his How's DX? column on pages 90 – 91. There are DXpeditions and contests filling the airwaves around the globe, including Nauru and Lord Howe Islands in the Pacific and the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean.



## Dear Ann Ode...



**Dear Ann Ode,**

I went to the new shopping mall today to pick-up my new transceiver. When I returned to the parking lot, I saw a small cemetery in the middle of the lot.

Why is it there?

Signed, Curious Ham

Dear Curious Ham,

It's a convenience for people who shop till they drop.

**You can tell your ham radio troubles to Ms. Ode 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

The Program Committee needs an additional volunteer to help at club meetings to greet people, arrange refreshments and perform setup/teardown. On the job training provided! Lots of satisfaction in making the meetings more welcoming for people.

If you have a knack for hospitality, this is a great way to meet people in the club as well as visitors. Only requires coming a little early to meetings (30 minutes) and staying a few minutes after the meeting to cleanup. Contact Peter N9HDW to volunteer ([n9hdw@arrl.net](mailto:n9hdw@arrl.net)).



**Hour Glass Videography**

**Peter Richey N9HDW** Wheaton, IL  
hgv1@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 October 2nd

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 48<sup>TH</sup> 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**

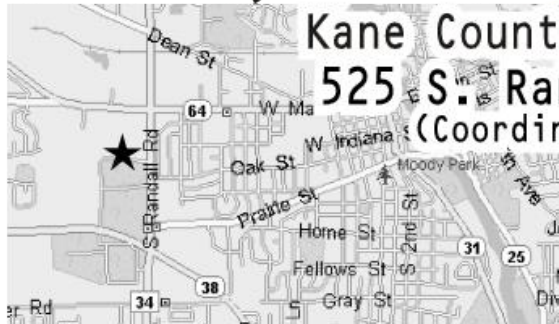
Children under 12 admitted at no charge

#### 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](http://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

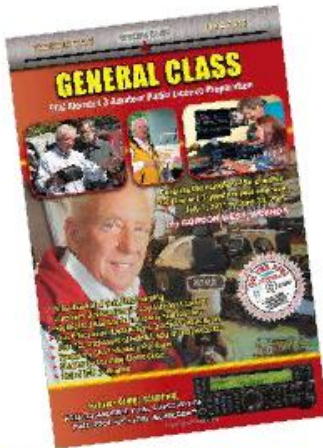


Home study first! In two Saturdays, you will have expanded HF privileges!

# Amateur Radio Class & Exam

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

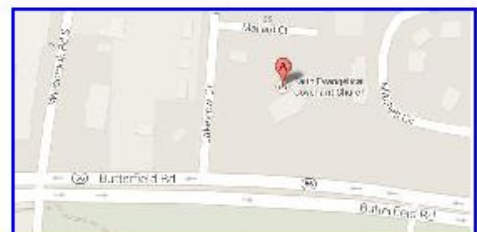
Saturday November 1st and November 8th, 2014



- 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.

## Book for Class

- 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](mailto:training@w9ccu.org) or phone 630-604-0157



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



This article comes from the Orange County Amateur Radio Club ([www.w6ze.org](http://www.w6ze.org)) and features the adventures of former club member Ken Diaz (WB9YCJ/6) who traveled to Japan to see how Japanese Hams operate. This article first appeared in the October 2013 edition of the Orange County Amateur Radio Club's newsletter **The R/F** and comes with permission from their club.

## Tokyo & Akihabara Trip

by Ken Diaz  
WB9YCJ/6

In August, I took a trip to Japan to see my favorite Jazz music group "Casiopea" playing in the city of Nagoya.

Upon booking my trip, I asked my American travel agent (who is from Japan) to try to keep my travel costs low as I knew it could get expensive. In addition, I also asked him to give me a few days in Tokyo and Honolulu as I wanted to participate in the Hawaiian QSO Party as a guest operator aboard the retired battleship USS Missouri anchored at Ford Island in Pearl Harbor. My agent was able to get me a three leg round trip air fare, LAX to Tokyo, Nagoya to Honolulu and Honolulu to LAX for only \$1100. And, good hotels in Tokyo and Nagoya for a typical \$130 to \$150 per night.

Upon arrival in Tokyo, the first thing that may impress you is the efficiency of services everywhere including transportation arriving and departing on time, common courtesies, and personal appearance of people. Professional attitudes abound from service workers everywhere. During my sight-seeing in Tokyo, I was busy constantly with a "go get 'em", don't stop now, keep moving attitude. Much good walking combined with public transportation. I visited many districts and wards via the world famous Tokyo subway system including Shinjuku, Asakusa, Ginza, Akihabara, Tokyo Dome and others. The Tokyo subway system and the Japanese railway or "JR" lines nationwide are not hard to navigate as it seems all system maps and station signs include some essential English for world visitors. Buying a ticket may be a challenge at first from a ticket machine but it didn't take long to figure that out either. Also, it seems most all bigger train and subway stations in and around Tokyo have at least one or two ticket agents with limited Basic English. And while I was on the trains, stops were announced in English also. Food and hotels can be pricey in Japan but public transportation can be very affordable. An all-day Tokyo subway pass was only about \$10 usd. McDonald's restaurants to my surprise had pricing very close to USA prices. A big Mac was only 350 Yen, about \$3.68.

**Bottom Line:** It is not hard to get around Tokyo as an American. Do not be intimidated!

Akihabara (Electric City) or "Radio Row" as many use to call it, is still home to many electronics shops including a few Ham shops. Today, the area has hundreds of electronics shops, ranging from tiny one man stalls specializing in a particular electronic component to large electronics retailers lining the main Chuo Dori street and the crowded side streets around Akihabara. They offer everything from the newest computers, cameras, televisions, smart phones, electronics parts and ham gear to second-hand goods and electronic junk. There is however less presence of analog electronic devices today. Digital devices abound throughout.

Since I last visited 27 years ago, Akihabara has developed into a center of Japanese otaku and anime culture, and dozens of stores specializing in anime, Manga, retro video games, figurines, card games and other collectibles which have filled the spaces between the electronics retailers. In addition to shops, various other animation related establishments have become popular in the area, and manga kissaten ("comics cafes"), a type of internet cafe where customers can read comics and watch DVDs in addition to having access to the internet.



**Fig 01:** One of the main streets in Akihabara. Note the Anime and comic characters on the sides of buildings.

Since around 2000, cafes called "maid cafes" have opened in Akihabara. In maid cafes, typical manga-style maids serve tea and cakes. When a guest comes to the cafe, maids say "Welcome home, Master" even if it is the guest's first time there, because the maids play the role of maids belonging to the guest's mansion. Similarly, they say "Have a nice day, Master" when the guest leaves. During the Masters stay at the cafe, a good time is had including entertainment, eating, drinking and pampering the guests. The purpose of the Maid cafe is to make the guest feel at home and relaxed. There are no sexual overtones in Maid cafes and the maids in the cafe fill a similar roll as the Geisha – they are both entertainers.

While I was walking the side streets of Akihabara looking for Ham shops, I came across several lovely young ladies dressed in French Maid attire, on the street corners, handing me maid cafe literature and pointing me the way to the cafes. I then had a tough choice - Yaesu or Yuki? Sadly, I picked Yaesu. I found the Ham shops, eyed the eye candy there including the new Kenwood TS-990 and ran out of time for the Maid cafes. I will return next year for green tea with Yuki perhaps.

A word here about buying Ham gear in Japan. Most if not all gear is sold with a Japanese domestic warranty, meaning if it goes bad, you would have to send it back to Japan and pay the freight. Also, most all VHF UHF transceivers are sold with the Japanese band plans in them (144/430 MHz). Where you might be interested in Ham gear purchases would be in the solid state amplifiers, small to medium size antennas, and any other accessories not available in the USA that you could tote with you back on the airplane or in your luggage. My



travel agent suggested I could bring back up to \$800 worth of gear without paying customs.



**Fig 02:** One of the many electronic stores in Akihabara. The store PA system announcements sometimes heard in Chinese language as there are frequent Taiwanese visitors. My hotel manager told me mainland Chinese visitors are being discouraged from visiting (by the Beijing government) due to the dispute over Senkaku/Diaoyu island.

Upon completion of my time in Tokyo, I took the Japanese "Bullet train" or "Shinkansen" to Nagoya. This famous train reached speeds over 160 MPH and again like so many other things in Japan, a real class act! The rail bed was smooth all the way to Nagoya. It reminded me of an airplane ride with stewardess like girls going down the aisles serving drinks and snacks complete with fold down tray tables in the seat in front of you.

I arrived in Nagoya, had a great time there also, including my music concert and 3 days later departed for Honolulu. Arrived in Honolulu just in time to help the Hams of the Battleship Missouri radio club run Pearl Harbor for the Hawaii QSO party. It was a lot of fun and they welcome visitor Hams every year to assist them operating during the contest held during the last weekend in August. If you need info for this please contact me via email (club roster) or Bill KH6OO.

Looking back on this, my regrets are not brushing up on my Japanese prior to travel. I hope to return to Japan next year to take in more of Tokyo and also see perhaps Osaka and Kyoto. As hams, if you decide on a trip to Tokyo try to time it with the Tokyo Hamfest also on the last week of August.



**Fig 03:** A wall of Handy Talkies, charming looking but most not attractive for purchase or use in the USA due to Japanese Ham bands 144/430 MHz installed. Perhaps some could be modified but it's not worth it. The instruction manuals may be in Japanese too.



**Fig 04:** This Icom IC-7000 radio is set up for the Japanese VHF UHF bands. Note that the bands start at 144 and 430 MHz and may offer difficulty here in the USA. Look to the lower left and note also that this radio is offered in three versions of power output to provide for the license classes in Japan. It also is sold with a Japanese domestic warranty and I consider this version not attractive for purchase in Japan for use here in USA. It is also likely more expensive than offered by US Ham dealers.





**Fig 05:** The IC-7700 is a good example of a radio ready for use in the USA. It has no Japanese banding issues since it is HF and 6 meters. It likely comes with an instruction manual that has English and it is not a low power version. Only one BIG problem....it costs \$7,700 USD, about \$1000 more than what you could buy one here in the states. Japanese only warranty also.



**Fig 06:** You are better off buying it in USA.



**Fig 07:** One of the typical buildings in Akihabara.



**Fig 08:** One of the many shops in the indoor swapmeet style of shops. This one specializes in capacitors.



**Fig 09:** Maid cafe advertisement on side of building in Akihabara

## CO Hamletter Contributors

First of all I want to thank Bob (WB9FEA) for suggesting the article from Ken Diaz (WB9YCJ/6) should be published in the Hamletter. I also want to thank the Orange County California Amateur Radio club newsletter editor, Bob (AF6C) and Ken (W6HHC) for giving me permission to reprint this article. To learn more about the OCARC visit the website at [www.w6ze.org](http://www.w6ze.org) I also want to thank Hal Jackman , Peter Richey (N9HDW) and Jim Ward (W9DHX) for all of the hard work they did on getting me the GPS story for this month. Check out that weblink in the article.

As you may have noticed I've made some changes to the Hamletter. I hope you like them. If you have any questions or articles email me at [m2e1990@gmail.com](mailto:m2e1990@gmail.com). The deadline for the November Hamletter will be October 24th.

Happy Halloween and Happy Fall

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 Kwartka (NJ9E)**

#### HAMLETTER

Editor-

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Contributor-Jim Ward (W9DHX)

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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.