



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 614 November 2014



Good Propagations- GENERAL CLASS STILL ON FOR 11/1 AND 11/8

BY: Jim Ward W9DHX

Mark Potter, W9UZ, Club Training Chairman, announced that there are still seats open for the General Class License class

being held Saturday, Nov. 1st, at the Faith Evangelical Covenant Church, 2001 Lakeview, Wheaton.



Dale Kwarta(NJ9E) and Mark Potter (W9UZ) Will Train

It is opposite the Herrick Lake Forest Preserve North Entrance (Website: office@faithecc.org)

The course is a two session event with the second class on Sat. November 8th. If you plan to attend, E-Mail Mark Potter at: W9UZ@arrl.net.

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Event Calendar

**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**

**11/21/14 Deadline
Hamletter**



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Members,

If you haven't heard, our ham license training classes are a real success story! We had a modest sized class for the Technician License and everyone passed their test. We've heard a few of them on the club repeater already and some are already preparing for the upcoming General License class. A big thanks goes to Mark W9UZ and all the instructors and VE team for their efforts and congratulations to all the new hams!

Last month at the meeting our budget planning discussion continued and we reviewed the additional financial data collected with the members. Given the time needed for the auction, we will not be discussing this topic, but rather work to offer a few proposals for an upcoming meeting in the first quarter of 2015.

Remember that 2015 club dues are due at the end of the year. We'll have a new renewal form ready with club badge and added privacy options we approved recently. All members will be required to submit the renewal form along with their payment to make things clearer for us.

With the holiday season close at hand, I hope you enjoy your gatherings with family and friends. Travel safely and remember to bring the fun of amateur radio with you!

Kevin - N9JPG

Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS

October 3, 2014, 1930 hrs

OPENING

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Call to Order | 7:32 pm |
| Opening Remarks/Announcements | |
| Approval of Agenda | Approved |
| Introductions of Members/Guests | Various members and guests. |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Corrections/Questions | None |
| Approval | Approved |

OFFICER REPORTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| President (N9JPG) | We need to be clearing out of our meeting space by 9:30 pm so we don't get charged for additional time. Our contract states we need to be completely out by 9:30pm. |
| Vice President (N9HDW) | Program tonight is on high altitude ballooning and amateur radio. We will have our annual club auction at the November meeting. Bring useful items and prepare a listing sheet for each item as found on the club web site homepage. There will be a holiday party in December. Location is TBD. |
| Secretary (N9HQ) | No report |
| Treasurer (KB9FYL) | Bank balances were provided. |
| Property Custodian (NJ9E) | Several used business class UHF handheld radios were donated to the club. Dale will try and determine if they are useful for hams. |

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| RAB report (KA3HSW) | No report |
| Questions & Answers | Clarification on the new Fusion repeater availability and test radios is desired. |

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| HAMLETTER (KC9IJO) | Mary hopes you like the changes made to the hamletter! |
| Website (N9WBW) | No report |
| Public Relations (N9JPG) | Ads were posted in the Trib local for the meeting and classes. |

MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

| | |
|--|---|
| Club Awards (N9MWF) | No report |
| Public Service/Emergency (N9OA) | The crew is all set for the marathon |
| CSU (N9MWF) | The CSU was brought to the York Radio club meeting to support their emergency readiness theme in September. |
| Interference (open position) | |
| Training (W9UZ) | Class starts tomorrow 8/4 |
| VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.) | Testing will be provided on 8/11 at the training class. |
| [Meeting] Program (N9HDW) | Use the specified auction sheets as found on the homepage. |
| Club Nets (KC9YFI) | No report |
| Hamfest (KB9RTO) | See Rich N9DKO for advanced tickets. Mike Wilson is worker chair this year. |
| Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E) | 25 Kits pre-drilled will be constructed. Need a workshop to assemble? |
| Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT) | No report |
| Holiday Party (KA9RZG) | No report |
| Membership (open) | 2 new members voted in: Bryan W9BED, Mike K9MJK |

CONTINUING BUSINESS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Questions for Committee Chairs | |
| Online Content Policy | The policy was approved with one modification which was to add a comment about noting whether certain photo rights were received if from non-club sources. |
| Budget/Dues Discussion | Additional discussion occurred. Some what if scenarios were offered to look at projected finances. No motions were made. |
| | |

NEW BUSINESS

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

CLOSING

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Anchors | Don Drake award nominees are needed. |
| Announcements | |
| Guest Comments | |
| Member Comments | Peter N9HDW is looking for others that want to work together to setup a modified wifi router based network for licensed hams using old Linksys hardware. |
| Adjournment | 8:30pm |

PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

November 7, 2014 Monthly Meeting

Program:

Members' Radio Gear and Computer Auction. See details in the Hamletter.

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



By: Mary Tuohy KC9IJO

Leave it to a Citibank commercial to inspire one man to dream sky high dreams. Darryl Hedges (KD9AUK) saw a commercial for Citibank that featured several young men releasing a high altitude balloon into the atmosphere with a camera attached to the end. He decided that he would take up this hobby of “near space” ballooning.

Darryl Hedges (KD9AUK) stands by his Balloon Display

Hedges explained a bit of the history of the balloon and how it evolved from Chinese lanterns to Jacques Charles and the Robert Brothers’ first flight in a hot air balloon in Paris in 1783 to the hot air zeppelins that carried people from Germany to other parts of the globe to the possibility of Google using near space ballooning to bring the internet to remote locations.

Two tiny flight computers, each powered by their 9-volt batteries,



Parachute that brought the balloon payload back to earth.

The equipment needed for amateur near space ballooning include a high altitude latex balloon and a tank of helium to fill the balloon. Next you need a payload carrying type of device like a cooler that Hedges lines with insulation to protect the equipment that often goes inside such as a GPS tracker, a 144.39 MHz 5W transmitter, and whatever other scientific equipment and control equipment you wish to put in. Hedges cautioned there were payload weight limits when it comes to near space ballooning. If you send up one payload package the package cannot weigh more than four pounds. If you send up two payload packages the combined weight cannot be more than six pounds. You also need a parachute and a parachute cut down device to return the payload back to earth. Idealistically you should try and plot out a projected course for your balloon to ensure that it does not come down in a populated area. Hedges recommends the following website :



A picture taken from a balloon at 80,000 ft.

<http://predict.habhub.org> which uses UTI time and weather patterns to predict where a balloon will come down. To find out more or to participate in the next balloon launch email Hedges at darrylray@mac.com

Announcing Club's Annual Auction!!!

At our November 7, 2014 club meeting, the program will be a Member's Auction. Bring radio gear and related items including computer items that can be used for Amateur Radio.

Do **not** bring "stuff" that is not related to our ham radio hobby, such as candles, old kitchen appliances, holiday ornaments. etc.

Our auctioneer and his assistants will make the final call on whether an item will be accepted for bidding.

1. IDENTIFY YOUR ITEM AND YOURSELF AS THE SELLER:

Each item you wish to offer for sale needs to have an Auction Item Tag Sheet which you should fill-in in advance of the auction.

The Auction Item Tag Sheet will identify what you are selling, that you are the seller, any minimum bid and any other information to help sell your item such as its condition (new, used, working, inoperative, unknown) and features, included accessories, etc.

You may get a copy of the Auction Item Tag Sheet from our club web site using this link: http://w9ccu.org/auction_item_sheet.pdf.

A copy is also available elsewhere in this issue of the Hamletter.

2. MINIMUM BIDS:

If you require a minimum bid, this must be indicated on the Auction Item Tag Sheet. Please keep in mind that historically more items sell without minimum bids than those which have minimum bid requirements.

3. BRING YOUR ITEMS EARLY, BEFORE THE MEETING:

Your item(s) needs to be in place in our meeting room no later than 7:15 PM Friday 11/7/2014, with a filled-in Auction Item Tag Sheet.

Items without tag sheets will ignored by the auctioneer and returned to you to remove and take home.

4. PROCEEDS AND PAYMENT:

There is no club "take" from your sale(s). **Any proceeds from the sale of your item is yours to keep** (although contributions to help the club budget are always welcome). Buyers are expected to pay for their purchases directly to the seller(s) immediately after the end of the auction.

5. UNSOLD ITEMS:

Any item not sold is the responsibility of the seller to take home at the end of the auction. There will be no "dumpster" service for unsold items. If it doesn't sell, s/he who brought it must remove it.

Peter N9HDW

Hamfest 2015

Sunday Sunday Sunday! The 3rd Sunday in January! Kane county Fair Grounds will be hosting WCRA's annual Hamfest . Come out see what's new and see old friends. Advance tickets are here and ready for you. See Rich N9DKO for tickets. Tickets can also be sold as a raffle ticket because the grand prize is \$200 cash. So get your stack of 5 and sell them! Please help your club. For more information or to volunteer to help out email me at hamfest@w9ccu.org .

Kurt Rubin
KB9RTO
Hamfest Chairman

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). 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

ALL EIGHT TECHNICIANS GRADUATE CLASS

By Jim Ward
W9DHX



List of the Class members:
Krista Bert, Tim Berg, Sebastian Duva, Eric Farrow, Benjamin Hallie, Arn Quanbeck

As the smiles would indicate, every one of the above candidates shown passed the Technician license test in the Fall class given by Training Director Mark Potter, W9UZ. “I’m very proud of the Volunteer Faculty that turned out to teach the class. It was also great that the Volunteer ARRL Qualified Examiners showed up right after the class completion to give the applicants ‘on the spot’ testing.” Commented Mark Potter W9UZ Training Chairman



(L-R) Dale Kwart, NJ9E, Club Custodian; Mark Potter, W9UZ, Training Chairman; Harry Kamer, K9HK, VE Chairman; Don Webster, K9MUF; and George Reichert KG9CG, (Seated L=R) Janie L.



Kevin Oleniczak, N9JPG, Son Colin, KD9AHH, (at left) and Bob Krueger, W9BK, (top center).

“This is what we’re here for”, said Harry Kamer, K9HK, chairman of the examining board, in response to compliments from Potter about giving up a Saturday afternoon in order to provide testing at the end of the two sessions of instruction. This is the second training event that WCRA has sponsored this year.

“There will be more classes coming in November for the General license,” Potter commented. “We expect some of the new Technicians will get eager to move up. Many of the Tech students went on to take the General Test without studying and came close to passing .“



QST REVIEW

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

COVER PHOTO IS NOT A SHACK— IT IS THE PRODUCT REVIEW LAB AT ARRL HQ!

At first glance, you might mistakenly think all that gear was in a Ham Shack. Nope, it is the equipment lined up to test Ham gear submitted to ARRL for review in forthcoming issues. This month a European maker (OM Power of Slovakia) presented their OM2500A JF Power Amplifier for a checkout. It is given a thumbs-up from Norm Fusar, W3IZ, on pages 53-55.

HAMS AND U.S. DIRIGIBLES HAVE A GREAT HISTORY

Mike Marinaro, WN1M, has written an interesting article on page 78 about the USS Shenandoah, the Navy's first dirigible. Most of us think of "lighter-than-air" craft like blimps working as advertising vehicles at sporting events. However, Mike reports how Hams helped out in another segment of aviation history.

BEGINNING COURSE IN "RFI" LOCATING — HOW TO FIND THAT PESKY HF NOISE

Conventional "Fox Hunting" equipment didn't do the job for Tom Thompson, W0IVJ, so he decided to devise a more sensitive radio direction finder that would snoop out the offensive noise source in his neighborhood. In a 5 page article beginning on page 33, he reviews types of interfering equipment and the ways to track the noises to their source. Power transformers arcing are common, but many times power companies do not cooperate. New sources are the modern energy saving light bulbs! If you have problems, be sure to read Tom's article.

HAMS GIVE HELP TO "OFF ROADERS" IN COLORADO MOUNTAINS

Black Bear Pass has an ominous sound to it. The U. S. Forestry Service describes it as "a very technical route". Those 4-wheel vehicle drivers who participate in a crossing of the unpaved, rocky and narrow ledged path of switchbacks that constitute the highway do appreciate amateur radio assistance. Gene Chapline, K5YFL, writes a dramatic report of an annual event called the FJ Summit on pages 75-77, complete with mountain scenery photos.

HAM RADIO CAKES ADD TO CELEBRATORY EVENTS

The UP FRONT column on page 20 shows how three parties—a wedding and two birthdays—were sweetened with entertaining as well as tasty cakes. Check it out! Could your baker have done as well?

Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann,

I've been out-of-town for a few weeks. Now that I'm back home, I just found-out that our radio club has moved our morning meetings to a new restaurant.

Do you know anything about this place?

Signed, Hungry Ham Op

Dear Hungry,

Yes, I do. The restaurant is called "Breakfast Anytime", so I ordered French toast during the Renaissance.

You can tell your ham radio troubles to Ms. Ode 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

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).



Hour Glass Videography



Peter Richey N9HDW Wheaton, IL
hg1@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.**

WCRA MEMBERS AUCTION - ITEM TAG SHEET

NOVEMBER 7, 2014

(ALL ITEMS MUST BE TAGGED AND IN PLACE BY 7:15 PM)

(ONLY RADIO HOBBY RELATED GEAR ACCEPTED FOR AUCTION)

LOT # _____ ITEM TITLE: _____
(Seller leave blank) *(Example: Yaesu FT-51R Handie Talkie)*

SELLER: _____ CALL SIGN: _____

MINIMUM BID: \$_____.____ [] NONE [] PER ITEM [] BOX LOT
(Indicate Per Item or Box Lot for multiple similar items)

DESCRIPTION: _____

INCLUDED ACCESSORIES: _____
(Example: DTMF microphone, extra rubber duck antenna, AC charger, DC charger, 2 batteries)

CONDITION: [] WORKS [] INOPERATIVE [] UNKNOWN
[] NEW [] USED [] HOMEMADE

YEAR MFG'D: _____

BUYER: _____ CALL SIGN: _____

BID PRICE: \$_____.____

ITEM TAKEN BY: _____ *(Purchaser)*

PAYMENT RECEIVED: _____ *(Seller)*

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

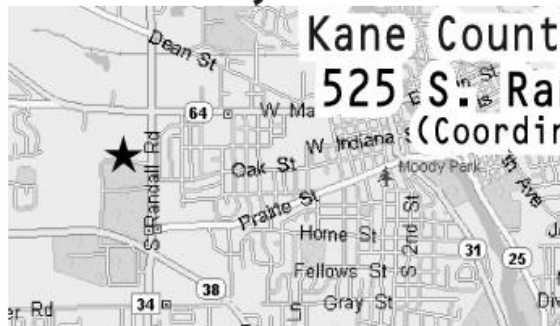
Children under 12 admitted at no charge

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..

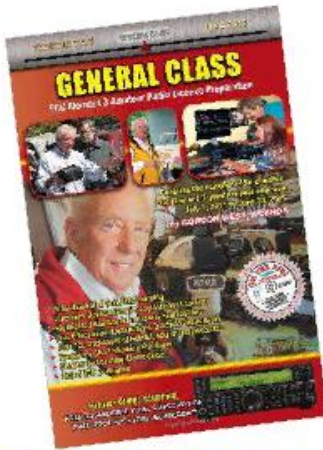
Mail to: WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60187-1055

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



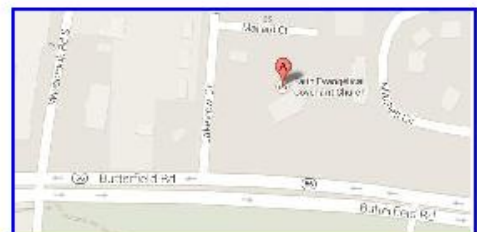
Book for Class

- 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

Is it November 2014 already? I can't believe how the year has flown by once again. This month I know I am thankful for Jim (W9DHX) who wrote some great articles about the WCRA training classes in addition to his usual QST Review. I am thankful for everyone who has submitted an article to the Hamletter this past year and I am looking forward (hopefully) to seeing a lot of you at the club's annual Holiday Party.

Meanwhile if you want to see something in the December Hamletter you have until November 21st to email to me at m2e1990@gmail.com
Happy Thanksgiving and have fun at the club auction.

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 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-

Mary Tuohy KC9IJO Email-
m2e1990@gmail.com

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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.

November 2014

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