



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 617 February 2015



HAMFEST!!!!

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Event Calendar

02/06/2015 7:30 p.m.
Monthly Meeting. 1st
Presbyterian Church
Wheaton IL.

02/20/15-DEADLINE
HAMLETTER

03/06/15 7:30 p.m.
Monthly Meeting. 1st
Presbyterian Church
Wheaton IL.

03/14 & 21/15
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tech
Class. Faith
Evangelical Covenant
Church 2001
Lakeview Dr. Wheaton
IL.



It's been a roller coaster of a tenure for me but it's time to give the Hamfest Chairman slot up. The weather for Hamfest this year was awesome. The forums were well attended. The vendors enjoyed themselves. Deals were in full swing and we as a club shall have a good profit. I know that the numbers are still being added up as this is being written but the club shall be happy with the money. I'd like to thank Joe N9WRO ,John N9MWF ,Mike KC9KHT, Dale NJ9E ,Kevin K9JPG , Rich N9DKO & Bob W9BK for their work on this event. I'd also like to thank the WCRA members & non-members who worked shifts or making the event a successful one. Look for More info on 49th Hamfest in other Hamletters and on the Net.

Kurt Rubin KB9RTO

HAMFEST!!!!



Visitors could see club/Hamfest information via a flatscreen TV at the entrance

By: Mary Tuohy KC9IJO & Peter Richey N9HDW

The 2015 Hamfest was a big success for WCRA this year. Over 700 tickets including nearly 500 tickets day of the Hamfest were sold at Kane County Fairgrounds as Hams an amateur electronics enthusiasts shopped dozens of vendors and their wares. On the second level Harry Kamer and his VE team were on hand to test wanabe Hams and those looking to upgrade their current license class. Peter Richey ran the forums again with a variety of topics.

“The forums went well this year, 2015, with high attendance and excellent presentations. Overall we had 125 people attend the three forums, with some attending more than one. This year the (Hamfest) saw a distinct increase in attendance at the first forum at 9:30 AM (41) which is a credit to its presenter, Darryl Hedges KD9AUK and his topic (High Altitude Ballooning).” Peter Richey N9HDW said.



Darryl Hedges KD9AUK talks about his passion for High Altitude Ballooning with a forum attendee

HAMFEST!!!



The first topic was High Altitude Ballooning presented by WCRA's own Daryl Hedges KD9AUK. This was a repeat of the same presentation that Hedges presented to the club in October of 2014. Hedges kept emphasizing that High Altitude Ballooning was a great way to get kids involved in Amateur radio as he also cited a statistic saying the average age of an ARRL member was 63. Several of those in attendance stopped by the display Hedges had set up after his presentation was over with to talk with him about his ballooning adventures.

Jim Kinter, K5KFT takes time out from Texas to Educate attendees on Broadband.

The 10:30 AM, BroadBand HamNet forum used Skype to connect presenter Jim Kinter, K5KTF in Texas with the audience in the forum room. This forum had the highest attendance of the three. Kinter spoke about how the same microwave technology that brings high speed internet to many homes is helping Hams connect in greater ways and gives hams a way to use multiple bands as once such as 20 m and DSTAR although Kinter cautioned against walking in front of the microwave antenna while in use.



Bill Hollister Helps to Sell Equipment

At 11:30 Mark Allen W6PC, VP of Rohn Products, presented an informative forum on how to safely install and maintain antenna towers, showing actual examples of weather and corrosion damage, and giving recommendations for keeping antenna towers in good condition for years. He strongly urged the adherence to safe procedures for installing, and climbing towers, replete with pictures and the related stories in examples of what can and has gone wrong when safety practices are skipped.



The VE Team grades test from would be Hams

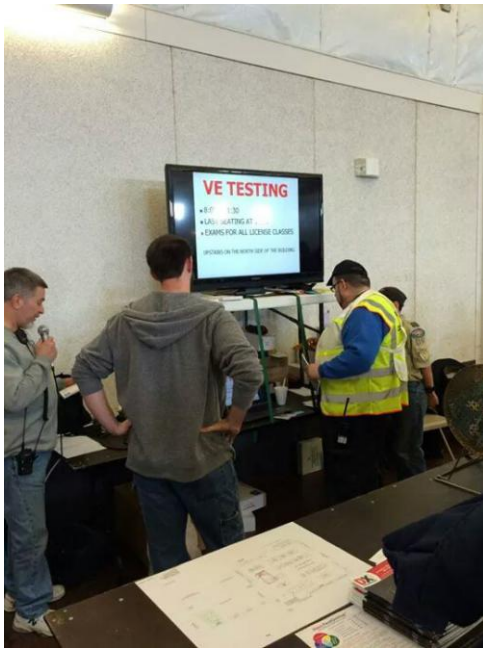
HAMFEST!!!

Continued

Mike Wilson had an abundance of workers willing to help sell and take tickets for the event and well as a steady crew to set up and tear down. The CSU was once again on display as Joe Lefebre and John Cheney helped to direct traffic to the Fairgrounds made a little more complicated due to the fact that the entrance off of Randal Rd. was closed.



Kevin (N9JPG) and Dale (N9JE) talk up club activities with an old friend



Hamfest Chairman Kurt (KB9RTO) stops by the stage to draw one of the hourly drawing for George (KA3HSW) to read aloud over the PA

Joe N9WRO give a guided tour of the club's CSU to a visitor to the Hamfest.



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Members,

This winter's WCRA Hamfest is behind us and it looks like we did well raising funds to help cover our club's costs. A huge thank you goes out to Kurt Rubin, our Hamfest Chairman, for leading us through another well organized event! Our Hamfest committee did an excellent job as usual addressing details and supporting each other (Bob, Rich, John, Joe, Mike, Dale, Peter, Tim, George, Ken and Carol). I also appreciate the efforts of many of our other members that helped out on the weekend of the Hamfest. Thank you also to those that sold advanced tickets.

I thought the entire event was well organized, planned and executed. The strong tradition and capability of our club to do "big things" was demonstrated again this year thanks to all of you.

Thank you!
Kevin - N9JPG

Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS January 9, 2014, 1930 hrs

OPENING

| | |
|--|---|
| Call to Order | 7:36PM |
| Opening Remarks/Announcements | Welcome to all. |
| Approval of Agenda | Approved |
| Introductions of Members/Guests | N9HQ,N9VDQ,KB9RTO,N9LTW,KB9UGJ,KA9HEL,W9DHX, N9HDW, N9CBA,KA0DSF,AJ9M,W9UZ,KD9AUK,W9BK,WA9FTS,W9 NJM, KD9AUP,KF5IV,N9DKO,NV9R,KD9AHH,KB9RCO,KC9YFL,N 9JPG, KC9KHT,KA3HSW,WA9EMO,W9BED,KD9CHL,N9LEM (GUEST),K9LGE (GUEST),WA9E,NJ9E,N9OA,N9MWF, |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November, 2014

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

OFFICER REPORTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| President (N9JPG) | A new application and renewal form has been created for 2015 dues which is available on the club web site. |
| Vice President (N9HDW) | Tonight's program is the upcoming Hamfest. Upcoming programs include Amateur Radio mounting systems, annual meeting and elections, W1AW operations. |
| Secretary (N9HQ) | None |
| Treasurer (KB9FYL) | Balances were given. All committee chairs need to have their budgets into Carol by the end of February. |
| Property Custodian (NJ9E) | The new donated repeater (440Mhz) and handhelds were shown and demonstrated to the members. This repeater will be deployed from the CSU and used for various events. |

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| RAB report (WA9E) | The Fusion repeater is up and running. With the low antenna, not many members can access the machine. Additional funds are needed to purchase the Fusion repeater upgrade. The 2 meter machine is in need of repair. The 220 machine is becoming more frequented. The 440 machine is operational. Antenna relocation sites are being looked at. |
| 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) | None |
| Website (N9WBW) | None |
| Public Relations (N9JPG) | The Hamfest will be promoted in the local newspapers. |
| Club Awards (N9MWF) | None |
| Public Service/Emergency (N9OA) | None |
| CSU (N9MWF) | The CSU has been fully insured, including equipment. The new, donated 440 repeater will be added to the CSU. The PL will be 100.0. |
| Interference (open position) | None |
| Training (W9UZ) | Tech & General classes from 2014 were a big success. They will be continued in 2015. |
| VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.) | None |
| [Meeting] Program (N9HDW) | Hamfest tonight. A donation box will be placed by tonight's refreshments. More help is needed for the program committee. |
| Club Nets (KC9YFI) | None |
| Hamfest (KB9RTO) | None |
| Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E) | New boxes will sell for \$70/piece. All holes are predrilled. 22 boxes will be available for the Hamfest. No membership discounts. Help is needed to construct the boxes. |
| Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT) | None |
| Holiday Party (KA9RZG) | None |
| Membership (open) | None |

CONTINUING BUSINESS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Questions for Committee Chairs | None |
|---------------------------------------|------|

NEW BUSINESS

| | |
|--|------|
| | None |
|--|------|

CLOSING

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Anchors | None |
| Announcements | None |
| Guest Comments | Eric and Mike briefed the membership on the Diabetes 2015 Toure de Cure bicycle marathon. Help is needed for this year's event. The club was presented with an award for assisting. Another award was presented to Larry Schroeder (posthumously) for allowing the Toure de Cure to use his repeater. Carol Schroeder accepted this award. This year's event will be June 14, 2015. |
| Member Comments | Janie Gallina (Kurt's mom) is recovering from shoulder surgery. She may need a ride to the Hamfest. |
| Adjournment | 8:22 pm |

PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

Feb 6, 2015

"Operating W1AW/9 from a Super Contest Station (WB9Z)" presented by Mark W9UZ and Peter N9HDW

March 6, 2015

Ham Kids In Action:

"Robotic Rope Climbing Antenna Raising System for Tall Structures and Trees"
Presented by Colin Oleniczak KD9AHH and Alex Caswell KD9AUQ

April 10, 2015 (Note: one week later than usual)

[Program follows annual meeting and officer elections.]

2015 WCRA Mid Winter Hamfest Forum Video: "BroadBand HamNet ", by Jim Kinter K5KTF. If you missed the forum, or just want to see it again, this is the full live recording including the presenter's slides, talk, and Q&A.

May 1, 2015

2015 WCRA Mid Winter Hamfest Forum Video: "Practical Safety Considerations For Amateur Radio Towers", by Mark Allen W6PC. If you missed the forum, or just want to see it again, this is the full live recording including the presenter's slides, talk, and Q&A.

June 5, 2015

"ARRL Field Day - WCRA Final Preparations" Led by the WCRA Field Day Committee

Peter
N9HDW

REMINDER!!! MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!!

The club's membership dues were due by **December 31st, 2014**. Please visit <http://www.w9ccu.org/application.pdf> to fill out the form online if you have not done so already. Dues are \$26 for a regular member, \$13 for students/seniors/non licensed associates and \$39 for a family membership. If you need a name badge please check all appropriate boxes and include the costs in your check/method of payment. The biggest change to the 2015 Membership Dues Form is the section indicating your privacy preferences. For more information or if you have any questions please email Carol (KB9FYL) at Carol.Schroeder@att.net or Ken (N9HQ) at n9hq@arrl.net

An Important Notice from the ARRL

FCC "Paperless" Amateur Radio License Policy Goes into Effect on February 17

ZCZC AG04

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 4 ARLB004

>From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT January 29, 2015

To all radio amateurs

Starting February 17, the FCC no longer will routinely issue paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS), although the FCC has continued to print and mail hard copy licenses. In mid-December the FCC adopted final procedures to provide access to official electronic authorizations, as it had proposed in WT Docket 14-161 as part of its "process reform" initiatives.

Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization ("Active" status only) via the ULS License Manager. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization - as well as an unofficial "reference copy" - from the ULS License Manager.

"We find this electronic process will improve efficiency by simplifying access to official authorizations in ULS, shortening the time period between grant of an application and access to the official authorization, and reducing regulatory costs," the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said. According to the WTB, the new procedures will save at least \$304,000 a year, including the cost of staff resources.

In comments filed November 5, the ARRL had strongly recommended that the FCC "give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses."

The FCC said that applicants or licensees who include a valid e-mail address under "Applicant Information" in the ULS will receive an official electronic authorization via e-mail. New license applicants

An Important Notice from the ARRL **Continued**

who do not provide a FCC Registration Number at the examination point will receive a printed license as well as an FRN and a temporary password to access the Commission Registration System (CORES).

The ARRL and other Amateur Radio commenters also worried that unless a license document is printed on distinctive paper stock, its authenticity could be questioned in such situations as obtaining vanity call sign license plates. To address this, the FCC said the watermark "Official Copy" will be printed on each page of an official authorization that a licensee prints out from the ULS. The WTB recently stopped using distinctive paper stock to produce hard copy licenses and has been printing these on "standard, white recycled paper." The Bureau noted that the distinctive paper stock it had used was six times more expensive than the plain recycled paper it now uses.

The ULS License Manager now includes settings that allow licensees to notify the WTB that they prefer to receive official authorizations on paper. Once the final procedures go into effect designating electronic access as the default, licensees can change the ULS License Manager setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document. Licensees also may contact FCC Support via the web at, http://esupport.fcc.gov/index.htm?job=contact_fcc_support , or via telephone or mail to request paper licenses.

The FCC rejected as "outside the scope of this proceeding" an ARRL argument that Section 97.23 of the Amateur Service rules be amended to replace "licensee mailing address" with other alternatives, including e-mail, for use in Commission correspondence. The rule, which requires that any licensee mailing address be in an area where the licensee has US Postal Service access, has precluded FCC issuance of location-specific call signs in such areas as Navassa Island (KP1) and some Pacific islands.

NNNN
/EX



QST REVIEW **By Jim Ward, W9DHX**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OTHER HAMS IN A “MAKERSPACE”?

Some Hams like to do DIY radio projects on their own, but QST this month brings the story of some builders who like to work as a group to share the excitement of getting something “on the air” that they’ve put together as a group. The article is on pages 78 and 79 and tells about some Williamsburg, VA. Hams who organized a “Makerspace” The organizer and author of the story is Dino Papas, KLOS, a retired US Army officer.

HUNTING DOWN RF NOISES THAT INTERFERE WITH YOUR RECEPTION

Could it be power lines, a faulty power transformer, or noises within your own home? Michael Foerster, W0IH, tells how to chase down those pesky and unwanted sounds. His report of working with the power company to get results is on page 45 and 46 along with a photo of his search equipment.

“SEVEN SEAS HAMMING” - IN YOUR OWN SHACK

You’ve heard of Hams taking their rig on cruises and vacations, but what about having your own private shack and sailing the globe? That’s what Maritime Captain Jeremy Allen does; he is the skipper of a freighter, Captain Steven L. Bennett. The ship carries 40,000 metric tons of cargo and is 685 feet in length. Captain Allen, whose call is N1ZZZ/Maritime Mobile, runs both SSB and CW. Read his story on pages 73 through 75.

BUILD YOURSELF A SHOCK-MOUNTED BOOM MICROPHONE AT LOW COST

Geoff Haines, N1GY, has combined some creative and inexpensive parts to make a practical and inexpensive boom mic for your shack. Key part is the swing arm from an architect-style desk lamp and a plastic pipe cap that holds an Electret microphone element. With no lamp base on the desk, there’s more room on the desk surface. You will find the article on pages 33 through 34.

TREASURE ISLAND OF ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON FAME TO GET A DXPEDITION

Cocos Island, 366 miles southwest of Costa Rica, is the target for a major dxpedition this month. Bernie McClenny, W3NUR, covers the story in his How’s DX column on page 93. There have been over 25 ham trips to this island that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Details of times and call signs are provided in the article, as well as reports and photos of former efforts.

Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,

At our last radio club meeting, I sat down next a very pretty YL. Ever the charmer, I asked her, “Does the Club charge you extra to sit next to a good looking ham operator like me”? She ignored my question, got-up and moved to the next row. Why?

Signed, Disappointed Ham Op

Dear Disappointed,

Because she wasn't willing to pay.

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

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

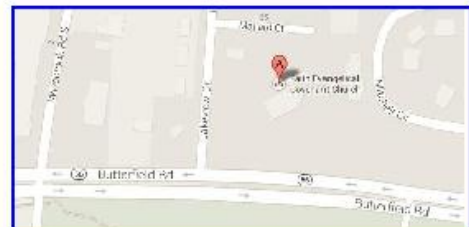
Saturday March 14th and March 21st, 2015

- 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 March 14th and March 21st, 2015
(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: \$20 for the class (required) + \$15 for the test (optional)
\$20 to purchase the book online (Amazon)
Make check payable to the WCRA for \$20 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>

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).

CQ Hamletter Contributors

To my fellow WCRA club members.

I want to apologize for this Hamletter getting out to you so late. My work/personal life has become more hectic than even I have imagined lately. It was great seeing a lot of you at Hamfest and while I was there I began to realize a few things.

1. This was the first club event I had been to in months. I was lucky enough to get off work for this event but I have not been as lucky in getting time off of work for other events/club meetings.
2. Someone who is in charge of the club's newsletter should make it a point to be at things like monthly meetings/events.
3. Unfortunately I realized that someone who should be at club events and meetings can no longer be me. And quite frankly you as a club deserve better from your Hamletter Editor

So, it is with a heavy heart that I must announce my resignation as Hamletter Editor and Chief effective June 1st 2015. I've selected that date so I can give Kevin and the 2015/2016 WCRA board of directors some time to find my replacement and this way I will continue to inform you, the club members, of events and happenings as best I can.

There will be more about my resignation in future Hamletters but for now I'm still in charge of the March 2015 issue and if you want to see something in the March Hamletter please email me at m2e1990@gmail.com by February 20th, 2015.

Mary Tuohy
KC9IJO

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

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wkra@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.