



HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 620 May 2015



Good Propagations

Awards



At the April club meeting Awards Chairman John Cheney N9MWF handed out Awards and Certificates of Appreciation to those club members who have helped out the club in special ways. Kurt Rubin KB9RTO and Joe LeFebvre N9WRO received extra special Certificate of Recognition for their years of dedication to the club as Hamfest Chairman and for storing the CSU for the club respectively. Other awards included: Mary Tuohy KC9IJO for the Hamletter, Mark Potter W9UZ for his work with the training classes, George Henry KA3HSW for his leadership on the Repeater Administration Board, Mike Wilson KC9KHT for his work on Field Day 2013 & 2014, John Cheney, N9MWF for his work as CSU chairman for the Hamfest, Dale Kwarta NJ9E for his work with both the training classes and for his Radio Go Kit fund raisers, Carol Schroeder KB9YFL for hosting the club's repeater at her home and Joe LeFebvre N9WRO received an award for his work as Field Day Co-chairman.

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Event Calendar

05/01/15 7:30 p.m.
Monthly meeting/Election Meeting. 1st Presybyterian Church Wheaton IL

May 22, 2015
Deadline Hamletter

06/05/15 7:30 p.m.
Monthly meeting. 1st Presybyterian Church Wheaton IL.

06/27 & 28/15 Field Day



Mike Wilson, KC9KHT receives a certificate of appreciation for his work on Field Day 2013 & 2014 from president Kevin Oleniczak (N9JPG)



Retiring Hamfest
Chairman Kurt Rubin
KB9RTO shows off his
Hamfest Certificate of
Recognition.

Mark Potter W9UZ receives
his award with a smile from
President Kevin for his hard
work and leadership role in
the club's training classes



Even Awards Chairman John
Cheney N9MWF receives an
award from President Kevin

Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS

April 10, 2015, 1930 hrs

OPENING

| | |
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| Call to Order | 7:35PM |
| Opening Remarks/Announcements | None |
| Approval of Agenda | |
| Introductions of Members/Guests | N9HQ,N9CBA,N9VDQ,N9MWF,N9LTW,N9HDW,AJ9M,W9UZ,W9BK,KD9CHK,KC9YFI,K9ILF,W9DHX,KC9KHT,KD9DJT,N9HLG,KB9RTO,NJ9E,K,N9DKO,KB9YFL,N9JPG,KC9ZLS,KC9CUK,KD9AHH,AC9CN,AC9MM,NP2PY,NV9R,KD9AUP,KB9WBX,KA3HSW,KB9RCO,KA0DSF,K9EW,N9LEM,N9OA,WA9E |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

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

OFFICER REPORTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| President (N9JPG) | This is my last meeting as president. I am looking forward to still serving the club in the future. |
| Vice President (N9HDW) | This is Peter's last night as VP. |
| Secretary (N9HQ) | Nothing |
| Treasurer (KB9FYL) | The budget will be presented later tonight. We finished the fiscal year in the black. |
| Property Custodian (NJ9E) | More Kenwood portables were received. |

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

| | |
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| RAB report (WA9E) | The .39 Fusion machine was installed at Mark Potter's house. A firmware update was applied. We are awaiting the arrival of 3 new Fusion repeaters. |
|--------------------------|--|

MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

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| Questions & Answers | The 440 machine is down. We are in the process of gaining access to repair the machine. |
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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

| | |
|--|--|
| HAMLETTER (KC9IJO) | Not present |
| Website (N9WBW) | Not present |
| Public Relations (N9JPG) | The training class went well. |
| Club Awards (N9MWF) | Awards were presented to Carol/KB9YFL for allowing the club to continually use her home for our main repeater location. Dale/NJ9E for fundraising efforts. George/KA3HSW for repeater efforts and leading the RAB. Mark/W9UZ for leading the training classes. Mike/KC9KHT leading Field Day. John/N9MWF for CSU efforts. Mary/KC9IJO for the Hamletter. Joe/N9WRO for Field Day and CSU efforts. Kurt/KB9RTO for leading the Hamfest. |
| Public Service/Emergency (N9OA) | The Special Olympics will be held on Sunday, April 26 in Naperville. Help is wanted. See Steve. The Addison Shriners are looking for help to assist on a Walk a Thon May 16. See Kurt. |
| CSU (N9MWF) | A wireless weather station is being added to the push up mast. Interior work has been done to the radio rack including adding duplexers. A movable stand has been added to the operating position. A ground buss has been installed. A new electrical cable from the trailer to the tow vehicle needs replacing as well as the electric braking system. A charging system for the Kenwood radios was |

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

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| Training (W9UZ) | 11 people were in the class. 11 passed. A general class is in the works, possibly in May. Help is needed. |
| VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.) | None |
| [Meeting] Program (N9HDW) | Tower safety-May meeting. Field Day preparations – June meeting. |
| Club Nets (KC9YFI) | Help is needed. See Tim. |
| Hamfest (W9BK) | January 17, 2016. The Kane County Fairgrounds will be used again. |
| Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E) | 20 are available. \$70 per unit. The holes are all predrilled. |
| Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHT) | Currently we are a 3A station. Much help is needed. A new generator is being considered. A camper will be made available. |
| Holiday Party (KA9RZG) | The party will be in December. |
| Membership (open) | KB9SFN, KD9DJT, KD9DJX, NP2PY, KB9DJ S. Motion made and approved. |

CONTINUING BUSINESS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Questions for Committee Chairs | The budget was presented. Motion was made and approved. |
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NEW BUSINESS

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|----------------------------|--|
| Service Recognition | See above |
| Custodian Election | Dale/NJ9E was voted in unanimously. No nominations from the floor. |
| VP Election | Tim/KC9YFI was voted in unanimously. No nominations from the floor. |
| President Election | Mike/KC9KHT was voted in for a one year term. No nominations from the floor. |
| | The above were voted in for 2015-2016 terms. |

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

CLOSING

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Anchors | A GPS unit, video lights and a book are on the table for the taking. |
| Announcements | Jamboral is 10/3/2015 in Sandwich, IL. The Addison Shriners are making their station available to other clubs. Roberto has advanced tickets for the Sandwich Hamfest. Mark/N9VDQ advises that the American Red Cross is looking for donations for the tornado victims from yesterday's storms. |
| Guest Comments | None |
| Member Comments | None |
| Adjournment | Adjourned at 8:35pm |

PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

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**

IN THE NEWS

Club members help out with annual Special Olympics event

Kurt KB9RTO, Mark KD9DJX, Jim KB9WBX, John N9MWF, Dale NJ9E, Carol KB9FYL, Kelsey KC9CUQ, Mike KC9KHT, Ken N9HQ, Janie AE9JG and Mark N9VDQ helped out at Special Olympics this past Sunday.

Several WCRA members received GOLD MEDAL shirts for 10 or more years of service to Special Olympics



Janie AE9JG shows off her 10 year Gold Volunteer T-Shirt at Special Olympics

Kurt (KB9RTO) takes a Selfie with Amy Kaylor, Manager of Sports and Competition for Special Olympics of Northern Illinois.



"Thinking Day" Activity Gets Girl Scouts Thinking About Ham Radio



Stan Pozerski, KD1LE, coaches one of the participants in the fine art of sending Morse code. [Ralph Swick, KD1SM, photo]

When Girl Scout leader Jill Galus, KB1SWV, was planning a "Thinking Day" activity last fall, she learned about Thinking Day On The Air (TDOTA). The World Association of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides designates February 22 as Thinking Day -- to commemorate the birth of both Scouting founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell and his wife

Olave, the first Chief Guide. On Thinking Day, Girl Scouts and Guides to reflect upon the international nature of their movement. Akin to the Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), Thinking Day on the Air is a global activity aimed at encouraging Girl Scouts and Guides to make friends via Amateur Radio. Both events were conceived by Les Mitchell, G3BHK (SK). Galus asked her dad, Skip Youngberg, K1NKR, if he and his club, the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club, would be willing to support a TDOTA station this year for her troop in Raymond, New Hampshire.

The Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club (NVARC) supported Galus -- "and had a lot of fun doing it," Youngberg told ARRL. The club agreed to let the girls use the club's N1NC call sign and its tower trailer, while Youngberg offered equipment. "By the time Thinking Day arrived on February 21, five local other troops had joined hers for the event," Youngberg said.

Stan Pozerski, KD1LE; Ralph Swick, KD1SM; Greg Cote, KB1WAQ, and his daughter Sarah, also a Girl Scout, and Youngberg traveled to New Hampshire and set up at a Masonic lodge. In addition to radios for HF and VHF, the NVARC team set up code practice oscillators for the girls to try. Eighty girls had signed up, split between morning and afternoon sessions, but because bad weather was forecast for later that day, all but 13 of them arrived in the morning.

"Needless to say, there was a lot of 'audio QRM,'" Youngberg said. "Nevertheless, every activity succeeded in capturing the girls' interest."

The ham radio mentors demonstrated Morse code and taught the youngsters how to send their names on the code practice oscillators. Galus had maps and a globe on hand to teach world time concepts, as well as a crafts table to string beads to spell "GS" in Morse code, as a keepsake.

The girls did not succeed in making contact with other Girl Scouts or Girl Guide groups, but the hams were able to demonstrate how to get on the air, both on HF and VHF. Afterward, Youngberg and his daughter sent QSL cards to the stations they'd worked. "When the replies come back," he said, "those budding scientists and potential new hobbyists will be reminded of a great experience and will have another thing to be excited about."

More details and photos are available in the March edition of the NVARC Signal newsletter. -- Thanks to Skip Youngberg, K1NKR, and Jill Galus, KB1SWV



Skip Youngberg, K1NKR (center), establishes an HF contact as (seated, L-R) Annie T., Rowan C., Sophia G., Sophie, and Quincy B. look on. [Ralph Swick, KD1SM, photo]

JOTA



Radio Scouting Equipment Survey

In preparation for the K2BSA operation at the 2017 Jamboree, we've been discussing the equipment we'll put in play for this exciting operation. That got us to wondering what you've put in play at your personal station. Let's find out!

You can complete the survey at <http://www.k2bsa.net/equipment-survey/>

We'll publish the results in early May on the K2BSA website and include a link in our next JOTA Newsletter.

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

ARTICLES ON PORTABLE RADIO ADVENTURE AND HOW TO ENJOY IT

QST writers have great ideas about how you can make the most out of ham radio's portability are featured this month. When you travel, take your handheld with you and enjoy world-wide and local contacts. Mark Beaufait, WA7YER, tells his experience on page 71 in visiting in Nevada and making the climb up Turtlehead Peak. Kal Siwiak, KE4PT, went to New Zealand and was granted a reciprocal operating agreement. He describes his visit and the agreement procedure on page 69.

MODERN MOBILE IN THE WORLD OF ELECTRONIC LADEN VEHICLES

There used to be two electronic devices in your vehicle – a broadcast band radio receiver and a ham radio transceiver. Today's cars are rolling computers, with some models having more than 100 CPUs controlling multiple operations. Alan Applegate, K0BG, takes you under the hood and explains what is going on with his pages 35 & 36 story, pictures and a diagram of what is going on. He has good advice on how to connect your mobile's power.

2015 FIELD DAY ACCOUNCEMENT – TIME TO GET READY

Helpful hints of how to be ready for the largest on-air Amateur Radio event in the world. The date is June 27-28, Saturday and Sunday. Official Announcement is on page 88.

YOUR GUIDE TO DAYTON AND THE ALTERNATIVE

Steve Ford, WB8IMY, is the Editor of QST, and a veteran visitor to the Dayton Hamfest. He tells the history of this unique event and adds his personal suggestions for enjoying it. Read the two page history and tips story on 78 and 79 and you'll get the feel of the event, even if you can't make it. An alternative is to "stroll" through a Special Advertising Section you'll find on pages 128 through the back page.

SEVERE WEATHER HAS STARTED – ARE YOU READY?

Rick Palm's (K1CE) Public Service Column on pages 80 and 81 is devoted entirely to preparation for emergency service. His suggestions include Security for your equipment, choice of antennas, and a step by step plan for deployment. Biggest "no-no" is the stuck microphone problem. Rick claims it is 99.9% caused by not properly hanging the mike on a holder between transmissions.

Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode

Last week, I was towing my boat home from a hamfest that was out on an island when my car broke down. I did not have a cell phone with me, but I did have my two meter radio on the boat.

I climbed onto the boat and called for help on our club's repeater. It happened to be during our weekly net. I explained that I was on my boat and located on Route 88 about two miles south of Big Lake.

After about a 10 second delay, the net control op came back and gasped. Then everyone signed out immediately. Do you know why?

Signed, Confused

Dear Confused,

I'll try, but first tell me: just how fast were you going when you reached the shore?

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 (Continued)

To my fellow club members,

Back in February I announced my resignation as Hamletter Editor and I appreciate the certificate of appreciation I received from the club this past April. (Sorry I wasn't able to receive it in person). But what I would really appreciate more is someone stepping up to edit our fabulous newsletter. Once you receive the articles from club members, laying them out in the software is easy. I'd be even willing to teach you how to use the software.

So far outgoing president Kevin (N9JPG) has not been able to find a replacement for me. President Mike (KC9KHT) now is tasked with the job of finding a new Hamletter editor. Please make Mike's job easier by emailing me at m2e1990@gmail.com with any questions you may have about the newsletter or what it entails or perhaps even to volunteer to be the next Hamletter editor.

June will be my last issue. After that, who knows if there will even be a Hamletter. This newsletter along with our website is a vital source of information for our club not only on events but for Amateur Radio activities throughout the world. Please someone, step up and volunteer.

Sincerely
Mary Tuohy
KC9IJO
Outgoing Hamletter Editor.