



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 584 Founded 1948 May 2012



FIELD DAY PLANS

Kevin AB9RN will be chairing field day this year which will be held on June 23-24. We will likely be at Panfish park in Glen Ellyn but are considering a few other options which will

be sorted out by the June 1st meeting. I hope that all the club comes out and joins us at whatever participation level ensures an enjoyable event for themselves and others. I hope to make this a very visible event for the public to attend and get to know our club and learn about amateur radio.

In order to get planning and budgets allocated correctly, I ask that you let me know if you believe you will be attending before the June 1st meeting. Contact me at the May meeting or by email. In addition, if you are looking to be a station captain please note that as well with your band and mode preferences. I'm looking to make this a fun event with fewer self-imposed rules,



but do ask that station captains support the following:

- Have their station ready to go by 11:30AM on Saturday
- Make it available for others to participate with and get on the air
- Coordinate band changes for transmitting with other club stations on the designated simplex frequency
- Support the use of network based logging as we have done in the past (via WIFI or other arrangement in advance)

I will help coordinate the schedule for the weekend and seek club members to fill it as necessary. **(Continued on Page 4)**

ANNOUNCEMENT

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY I am resigning my positions with Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs as: Repeater Administrative Board Chairman, Repeater Administrative Board Member, and Editor of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs HamLetter.

Don Motz, Jr. N9NYX

WCRA Staff
Elected Officers

President Joseph, K9JWG
Vice President Mary, KC9IJO
Secretary Kevin, AB9RN
Treasurer Ken, N9HQ
Custodian Dale, NJ9E

Volunteer Committee Chairs

Club Call Trustee Tom, N9CBA
Christmas Party Ruth, KA9RZG
Club Awards John, N9MWF
Elmer/Know-Code Charlie, WB9SG
Field Day Dale, NJ9E
Hamfest John, WT9Y
Refreshments John, WT9Y
Membership Tom, N9WBW
Public Service Steve, N9OA
VHF/HF Awards John, N9MWF
Webmaster Tom, N9WBW

Amateur License Staff

Training Classes Charlie, WB9SGD
Volunteer Exam. Harry, K9HK

WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

Chairman
Secretary George, KA3HSW
Member Rich, N9DKO
Member

WCRA Radio Nets

Sunday 8:00 pm 145.310/(-600) Net Control: Rotates

WCRA Repeaters

145.310/ 144.710 103.5(1A) or 107.2(1B) PL Encode/Decode
224.140/222.540 Carrier Access
444.475/449.475 114.8 Hz(2A) PL Encode/ Decode
145.390/144.790 103.5(1A) PL Encode/Decode

HAMLETTER

Editor
Photos
Features Jim, W9DHX

HAMLETTER 24 HOUR FAX
HAMLETTER eMail address:

From the President's Gavel

by Joseph, K9KWG WCRA President

Good day Everyone! I am Joseph Grosshauser K9JWG your newly elected President. I am looking forward to serving as your president and welcome any questions, suggestions or criticisms. I have already seen a lot of good ideas flowing. One of my goals is to get more activity in the the club and new members. Please be sure to attend our May 4th meeting as we will be presenting some club awards.

Email. k9jwg@yahoo.com
Phone # 630-809-6221



WCRA Meeting Minutes

Kevin, AB9RN
WCRA
Secretary



Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs Agenda for the Regular Club Meeting for April 13, 2012 First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL

CALL TO ORDER

Called to order 7:30pm

Approval of Agenda

Presiding Officer Approved

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND

OPENING REMARKS

Introductions: N9OA, K9JWG, AB9RN, N9HQ, KC9ITO, KC9UKN, N9WBW, KC9KHT, KB9FYL, WA9FTS, N9CBA, K9ILF, WA9ACO, KA9HEL, W9UZ, W9DHX, N9MWF, W9BK, N9HDW, Colin and Mason.

Opening Remarks Any Board Member None

Tonight's program No program

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING:

Corrections Secretary None

Approval Presiding Officer Motioned carried.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Steve, N9OA No update

Vice President Joseph, KC9UHE No update

Secretary Kevin, AB9RN No update

Treasurer Ken, N9HQ Renewals are needed.

Bank Account balances Balances were given.

Property Custodian Bruce, KA0DSF No update

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB) Report

Chairman Don, N9NYX No update

Questions Members expressed concern that the repeater is still not operational and that professional help be consulted.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Service Steve, N9OA April 29th is special Olympics and volunteers are needed.

May 19th is the 3 fires Boy Scout Scout-O-Rama and volunteers are needed to support this event. Get with Steve N9OA to help out. Steve is also looking for 4th of July parade volunteers.

CSU John, N9MWF Dale gave an update that the HF beam has been reconditioned and ready for action.

Hamfest John, WT9Y The Hamfest chairman position is available, as John is relocating to Charlotte, North Carolina for work. We appreciate his support with the hamfest over the years!

Club Awards John, N9MWF Awards being prepared for next month.

Field Day Dale, NJ9E The chairman's position is open.

Christmas Party Dale, NJ9E Dale is looking for a new location.

Hamletter Don, N9NYX No update

Website Tom, N9WBW Site is updated

Training Charlie, WB9SGD No update

Program Joe, KC9UHE no program tonight as Joe is not feeling well

Public Relations Mark, W9UZ No update

Membership Tom, N9WBW 8 members remain unpaid for 2012 dues

We also would benefit from having folks support other related types of activities such as:

- Host an information table for visitors
- Help with setup on Saturday morning (or earlier if possible)
- Help with cleanup on Sunday afternoon
- Help with getting food and setting up
- Related field day demonstrations (that get us points!) like ATV, Satellite, etc

Let me know if you're interested?

Thanks and I look forward to seeing everyone there!



QST for May'12 – Dayton and Field Day Promo

Jim Ward, W9DHX

STILL TIME FOR DAYTON?

May 18,19,20 are the dates, so QST is full of articles and ads about the Hamvention that is unmatched for Ham Celebrities and super-exhibits. If you can't make it, checking through the pages of QST is a good substitute.

FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN KEVIN, AB9RN, is looking for you. The date is June 23 and 24 and all the gear you might want to wear is shown on Page 116. Panfish Park, our traditional operating position in Central Glen Ellyn has been requested as the site. Permit approval is expected as we've never had a neighbor complaint!

“THREE WATTS IN A COFFEE CAN” MAKES INTERESTING READING

George Dorner, W9ZS, tells the step-by-step story of his low-power building experience on page 20. He packs a lot of parts in the can for very few dollars. The rig has one vacuum tube and lots of small parts.

COVER STORY: USE YOUR SMART PHONE AS A DIGITAL COM. TERMINAL

Page 30 takes you for a three page ride on creating an AFSK Interface for Android Smart phones. It is written by Martin Huyett, K0BXX of Burlington, Wisconsin. So if you have an Android phone, he has the road map to arriving at an advanced point with a Digital Communications Terminal at your QTH. Circuit and Parts List are included.

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE—“FROM ANALOG TO D-STAR”

Not satisfied with combining Smart phones and radio, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ tackles the Analog to D-Star transition. Starting with “What is D-Star?” Gary leads you through the process of joining in on D-Star, even though you don't have a D-Star radio! Sounds difficult, but Gary says it can be done. The article starts on Page 36 and has four pages with many pictures. Gary is a frequent QST contributor and video producer from Cary, NC. (He also did the review below)

KENWOOD'S NEW TM-281A 2 METER FM TRANSCEIVER REVIEWED BY QST

Looking for something that kicks out a lot of power on 2 meters and can reach repeaters from a distance with 25 or 65 watts? Read about it on a three page review beginning on page 45. Gary Pearce, KN4AQ gives it high marks, and it is priced well under \$200. Check it out yourself on your visit to Dayton!

The VEEP's corner

By: Mary Tuohy (KC9IJO)

Allow me to take a few minutes to introduce myself. I am KC9IJO (aka Mary Tuohy) and I've been a member of WCRA since 2005. Perhaps you have seen me out at Public Service events like Special Olympics or remember me calling (o.k. BEGGING) for help for the annual Mid-Winter Hamfest.

I've sat back for many years and let the club go where it may. I realize now that if our club is to make a greater difference in the lives of our members and the community at large I can no longer sit back on the sidelines. I want to help you all to grow not only as Hams but as to grow the club as well.

To this end, look for a survey to come out in next month's Hamletter asking for your opinion on a variety of things. Meanwhile I'll give a sneak peek at one of the questions that will come out. It's really quite simple-What kind of topics do you want me to give a presentation on? Please email me at m2e1990@gmail.com or call me at (630)222-9732 with your suggestions. I might even have a presentation ready for the May meeting on something you suggested to me.

The following are meeting dates for the WCRA club:

May 4

June 1

July 13

Aug Member appreciation dinner

Sep 7

Oct 5

Nov 2

Dec Christmas Party

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF MAY



PETER	N9HDW
TOM	N9WBW
MAC	W9LIW

Meeting Minutes Continued from Page 3 VE Program No update

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS A. Status of Sunday Night Net – The net may resume this Sunday (4/15/2012) on the 2 meter repeater.

B. Jim Ward asked if anyone is interested in participating with the citizen's core.

C. September 15th is the radio expo

D. June 13th is a certification class for CPR, cost is \$35.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS A. Property Custodian – one nominee exists which is Dale NJ9E. Dale offered that he would like to catalog equipment with photos. Motion by John and seconded by Peter. The motion carried.

B. Secretary – one nominee exists which is Kevin AB9RN. Motioned by Jim and seconded by Joe. The motion carried.

C. Vice President - one nominee exists which is Marry KC9IJO. Motioned by Tom and seconded by Al. The motion carried.

D. President - one nominee exists which is Joe KC9UHE. Motioned by John and seconded by Mike. The motion carried.

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS

ADJOURNMENT Adjourned at 8:38pm

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 3rd: Club Brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursdays 10:30 AM at Peppercorns. Peppercorns is located at the corner of President and Geneva Road in the shopping center on the North side of Geneva. All are welcome.
- 4th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145..31. Program for March is
- 24th: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm. Go to the club VE Testing website at vetesting.harrykamer.com for the latest details. **No testing on December.**

Remember the Club net on 2M is held every Sunday evening at 8 PM local on 145.31 (-) unless it isn't. Weekly ragchew net on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM 145.31 (-).

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting May 4th, 2012, First Presbyterian Church 615 W. Jefferson Ave., Wheaton, Illinois 7:30 PM

WCRA 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 followed by a break for conversation, coffee, soda pop, and fat pills. This is followed by an amateur radio related program. We would like to see you there to share the enthusiasm.

HAMLETTER

Club and HamLetter Mailing Address:

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
eMail: donlin67@ameritech.net

First Class Mail