



HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

THE MAY WCRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY APRIL 30TH DUE TO THE WHEATON COLLEGE GRADUATION ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF MAY AND THE DAYTON HAMVENTION BEING HELD ON MAY 14TH THROUGH 16. PLEASE MARK YOU CALENDARS FOR THIS CHANGE IN DATE. WE WILL MEET IN OUR USUAL ROOM (#138) IN THE BILLY GRAHAM CENTER AT 7:30 PM THIS FRIDAY APRIL 30TH.

Recently our DX Column Editor, Peter, W9UF, traveled 'downunder' for a vacation with his XYL. He is seen below in the Office of the Australian Communications Authority (aussie FCC) receiving his Australian callsign, VK2WUF.



From the President's Gavel

by Mike Wolff, AB9AX WCRA President



Greetings Fellow WCRA'ers,

First of all, I would like to say 'Thank You!' for the opportunity to serve you again in the capacity of club president. Also, I would like to welcome Mary, K9GAL, to the executive board as our newly elected secretary, and say 'thank you' and 'well done' to Robert, N9EF for his multiple terms as secretary. While I'm on the topic, we are still looking for someone to step up and fill the custodian role on our executive board. Roberto, WA9E, has served us well, but has elected (pardon the pun) to not run for re-election to this position. The current by-laws state that the current officer shall fill the role until he has been replaced by election process, or resigns. So, we are still looking for help from the membership to help out the executive board. Please consider if you would like to do this, or if you know someone whom you think would do a wonderful job in this role, please approach that person, or approach any member of the executive board to discuss.

On April 18, 2004, the executive board met. Here are the highlights of the meeting:

(Continued on page 4)

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Mike Wolff	AB9AX	630: 778-1070
Vice President	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630: 742-3581
Secretary	Mary James	K9GAL	630: 968-1844
Treasurer	Jack Feldman	KA9HEL	630: 515-0377
Custodian	Roberto Beltramelli	WA9E	630: 668-5688

Volunteer Committee Chairs

Club Call Trustee	Tom Geletka	N9CBA	630: 289-2535
Christmas Party	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630: 858-8541
Club Awards	John Cheney	N9MWF	708: 848-2885
Club Truck			
Elmer/Know-Code	George Reichert	W9GWR	630: 871-1786
Elmer/Know-Code	Charlie Matthews	WB9SGD	630: 665-4506
Field Day	Frank Krozel	KG9H	630: 653-9090
Field Day	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630: 858-8541
Field Day	Peter Richey	N9HDW	630: 260-9447
Hamfest	Bruce Plantz	K9OZ	630: 604-0157
Chaplin	Harry Sheaffer	W9AXI	630: 483-2044
Historian			
Interference			
Refreshments	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630:742-3581
Membership			
Membership	Robert Mitilieri	N9EF	630:510-7816
Membership Retention	Robert Noles	N9XS	630:372-7036
Public Relations			
Public Service	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	630:587-8059
VHF/HF Awards	John Cheney	N9MWF	708: 848-2885

Amateur License Staff

Training Classes	Jack Feldman	KA9HEL	630: 515-0377
Tech Instructor	Mike Wolff	AB9AX	630: 778-1070
Tech Instructor	Robert Mitilieri	N9EF	630: 510-9783
General Instructor	Pat Byrne	K9JAU	630:858-1959
Extra Instructor			
Volunteer Exam.	Harry Kamer	K9HK	630: 953-0519

WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

Trustee/Tech Adv	Tom Geletka	N9CBA	630: 289-2535
Chairman	Don Motz, Jr.	N9NYX	630: 665-7757
Secretary	Doug Totel	W9NJM	630: 469-3001
Tech Advisor	Gary Henle	N9VLL	630: 736-9102
Member	George Henry	KA3HSW	630: 830-6659
Member	Larry Schroeder	KA9KDC	630: 665-3228

WCRA Radio Nets

Sunday	8:00 pm	145.390/(-600)	Net Control: Rotates
Sunday	8:30 pm	224.140/(-1.600)	Net Control: Marty KA9RCC
Tuesday	8:00 pm	145.390(-600)	ARES Net
Tuesday	8:30 pm	444.475/(5.0)	UHF Net

WCRA Repeaters

145.390/ 144.790	103.5(1A) or 107.2(1B)	PL Encode/Decode
224.140/222.540	Carries Access - SKYWARN Service Liaison	
444.475/449.475	114.8 Hz(2A)	PL Encode/ Decode
145.310/144.710	WCRA, W9CCU-1 Full Duplex Packet Repr	

HAMLETTER

Editor	Don Motz, Jr.	N9NYX	630:665-7757
Photos	Larry Schroeder	KA9KDC	630: 665-3228
Features	Peter Barr	W9UF	630:971-8581
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WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Robert Mitilieri
N9EF
WCRA
Secretary

WCRA Meeting Minutes for the April 2nd, 2004 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 19:35 by the President, **Mike AB9AX** and introductions were made by the board and all in attendance. There was a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting by **AH6DA** and seconded by **Joe, N9WRO**, a vote was taken, and the motion carried. At 19:50 there was a motion to recess by **George, KA3HSW**. It was seconded by **Tom, W9WBW**, a vote was taken and the motion carried. The

business meeting was recessed and the program on electric vehicles started. The business meeting continued at 20:50. The Vice-President, **Steve, N9OA**, reported that next month's program would be on voice operating procedures for public service events, presented by Joe, N9WRO. June's program will be on Field Day. The May meeting will be held on April 30th due to graduation at Wheaton College, and the Dayton Hamvention. Secretary, **Robert, N9EF**, reminded everyone that renewal time is upon us. You must be an active (paid up) member to participate in tonight's vote. Member applications are located on the main table. There was a new member voted in tonight, **Sharron, KB9ZUK**; welcome! Mike, AB9AX, gave the Treasurers report. The IRS has informed the club that we do not owe the money that they previously informed us about. Custodian, **Roberto, WA9E**, reported that the truck insurance has been paid. Hamfest, **Bruce, K9OZ**, reported that Hamfest flyers will be printed this month. The price for the facility increased slightly. Dale suggested raising the door ticket prices. Bruce suggested possibly raising commercial table prices. Public Service, Joe, N9WRO., listed up-coming public service events; Special Olympics 4/25 in Naperville, MS Walkathon 5/2 in Naperville, Wheaton July 4th parade 12 noon or 1PM (back to the old route), Glendale Heights parade 8/28 (not at night this year). RAB, **Don, N9NYX**, no new news regarding COD and the repeater antennas. There is activity on the packet repeater. The 440 machine has been a bit temperamental. This may be due to increased use at drive time. Field Day, **Dale, NJ9E**, reported that the letter requesting the site has been faxed. Dale suggested that we attempt to reduce expenses. Dale also suggested that we should consider searching for another site. Hamletter, Don, N9NYX, mentioned that we still need a volunteer to print and mail the Hamletter to those without Internet access. VE, Mike, AB9AX, reported that there were two new hams and one upgrade at the last VE session. There is a VE session every Thursday at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 until 8:30. There is information about additional VE sessions on the club web site; www.w9ccu.org. Web Page, Mike, AB9AX, reported that the Public Service Web Page has been updated (this is an open position but Mike has been keeping the web site up to date.) There was a motion to accept the committee reports by N9WRO, it was seconded by **Doug, W9NJM**, a vote was taken and the motion carried. Old Business: Nominations for open positions were written on the board; President, Mike AB9AX; Secretary, **Mary, K9GAL**. AH6DA made a motion to close the nominations, the motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the motion carried. N9OA made a motion to vote for president by acclimation, it was seconded by AH6DA, a vote was taken and the motion carried. N9WRO made a motion to vote for secretary by acclimation, it was seconded by N9OA, a vote was taken and the motion carried. Congratulations to President, Mike, AB9AX, and to Secretary, Mary, K9GAL. No One has yet accepted the nomination for Custodian, The current Custodian, Roberto, WA9E, will remain in office until a new Custodian is elected. N9OA made a motion to table the election for Custodian, it was seconded by N9WBW, a vote was taken and the motion carried. A motion was made by Tom, N9WBW to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Don, N9NYX. A vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 21:52.

Thanks Robert for a job well done as club Secretary. The WCRA Membership.

From The President's Gavel (Continued from page 2)

1. Secretarial duties and materials were transferred from Robert, N9EF to Mary, K9GAL
2. Discussion of club budgeting for the coming fiscal year starting May 1, 2004. Our treasurer expressed concerns of spending vs. income, which lead to a discussion of our largest expense, the club truck, and how we might reduce our expenses to fall within budget. We are investigating alternate insurance coverage for the truck (current insurance for this year cost \$1,943.00), and also are looking for another location to store the vehicle, as the current location is costing us (\$63.90 per month, totaling \$766.80 per year). These are the two largest expenses that the club has, outside of items associated with the hamfest. Our projected income from next January's hamfest is around \$4,200.00, coupled with the declining income from membership dues leaves us trying to budget all expenses at a cap of around \$5,500.00 to \$6,000.00, in order to keep from further reducing our liquid assets. Keep in mind the above expenses for the club truck do not include fuel, nor any maintenance costs.
3. Other topics included things we might do to try and turn the tide on our declining membership. The topic of re-instating the mailing of a condensed, 4-page printed hamletter, while continuing to offer the full blown letter via the Internet was discussed, in addition to bring back membership packages that in past years have been provided to new and renewing members. Of course, cost is a big concern, so further investigation needs to be done on how we might proceed while maintaining our financial objectives, not to mention the increased burden that it would place on our hamletter editor.
4. The repeater situation was also addressed; however, the last report we have from the RAB is that nothing has changed to this point, and that Don, N9NYX, will be attempting to contact WDCB station management and see if he can get an update on when we might expect our antennae to be installed on the WDCB tower.

As I write this, we have just seen the first of the severe weather this season. Please keep yourselves aware, and prepared, as spring progresses into summer, so that you and yours will enjoy the seasons.

73,
Mike, AB9AX

MAY QST REVIEWED

By Jim Ward, W9DHX –the Dog House expert

Another exciting issue, with a circuit board green color on the cover, illustrates a Multicoupler for up to eight receivers! It also takes eight pages to tell you how to build it. What a project for a winter's evening. (Pages 31-38).

“UP FRONT”—the picture section—great snaps of Hams in Action—from weddings to sunsets over the antenna farm. Get your camera out and shoot some of your interesting ham experiences for the Hamletter.

BROAD INTERESTS ARE SERVED!

Just as our hobby covers many fields of interests, this QST issue goes from simple kit projects (the 10 key electronic organ) to complex experiments (Switchmode Regulators). We will highlight a few to tweak your reading interest. (Continued on Page 5)

10-KEY ORGAN PROJECT

It's not exactly a crystal set, but this "kid-oriented" project is a honey. Simple to build and details are added at a website: www.arrl.org/news/features/2004/02/28/1/. This by the same ham who developed the Code Practice Oscillator (Mark Spencer, WA8SME). You'll see it pictured on Page 12.

CELEB VISITOR JOE WALSH AT ARRL HQ

Eagles Guitarist and WB6ACU got the red carpet treatment at Newington and starting at Page 52 you can share in two pages of photos and narrative on the "Ordinary Average Guy". Joe started out with a DX-20 and a BC-348 in 1961, and has been enjoying the hobby since—and drawing crowds as a rock performer and songwriter.

ARRL AT 90 – BIRTH DATE 05-18-14

Six pages of story and pictures of nine decades of Ham History, including mention of John Huntoon (W1RW), a Glen Ellyn native. It is a long way from the early days of spark gaps and crystal sets to the 2004 sophisticated digital equipment.

What hasn't changed is the consistent person-to-person communication made possible by those little dots and dashes or a voice-to-voice message.

CLUB ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The membership of WCRA held club elections this past meeting for President, Secretary, and Custodian. The position of Custodian was not filled so the club is still looking for a qualified volunteer to set forward and stand for election to this position. Those elected this past meeting:

President: Mike, AB9AX

Secretary: Mary, K9GAL

The membership of Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs would like to thank Mike and Mary for the dedication and willingness to serve.



Activities on the HF Bands

by:
Peter Barr
W9UF

Barry ZS2H, reports that there are two operators at ZS8MI on Marion Island presently, but only one has a full South African license. The other operator has a restricted license, with a ZR prefix, and he is not allowed to operate below 144 MHz. The two ops are busy putting up "the big rig," a Collins KWM-2 and 30L-1 amplifier and a dipole and should be operational within the next few days. They report that the QRM is ridiculous; reminiscent of the Bouvet Island fiasco a few years back. The operation of ZS8MI is NOT a DXpedition; it is a scientific study exercise. The operator, Ludwig, can only operate when he has completed his daily work schedule. There is no guarantee that he will be able to operate on any given day. Barry says it is not strictly a net operation

but Ludwig has asked "the 245 net" to help "overcome the extraordinary poor manners of a large number of callers. While on 245 he has requested lists. Conditions permitting, he has said that he MAY operate on other frequencies." Barry suggests that if DXers would "clean up their act," it would "help the DX scene in general and ZS8MI in particular." Bottom line: Due to Marion Island's rareness and expressed sensitivities of the ZS8MI operator, he appears likely to QRT if things get unruly, so beware. ZS2H has operated from Marion Island twice himself.

Three special event callsigns will be on from two locations in Mongolia April 15-May 15 to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Dornod Radio Club, callsign JT2KAA. The DRC is the second club in the country. Callsigns JT45D and JV45D may be heard from the club in Ulaanbaatar and JU45D from the club in Dornod. QSL via JT2AN P.O. Box 94, Dornod, Mongolia.

XU7ACE and XU7ARA will be on the air from Cambodia May 7-19 with Jaak ES1FB, and Oleg ES1RA. They plan an Islands on the Air operation from Koh Pas Island, AS-133, with the XU7ACV callsign. QSL for their home callsigns. They plan to put the XU7ACE QSOs in the Logbook of the World database.

Sebastien, FT1ZL is on the sought-after St. Paul and Amsterdam Island, but currently with only a VHF license. French Telecom has decided to open the HF bands for Class Two operators like Sebastien. He's just waiting for the official go-ahead for access to HF. He does have a hundred-watt HF rig with him. Since he's a beginner, expect him to have trouble with the big pileups he will be capable of generating.

Susan, XE2/W7KFI, 70 years old, is on an around the world DXpedition that will last three years. She was recently reported in QSO at 125Øz on 14.027 kHz. Susan doesn't necessarily sign /MM but is sailing solo on a 32-foot sailboat. She will be in Mexico for the spring and summer then sail to French Polynesia in the fall. More info on Susan is available on QRZ.COM.

A new book on Amateur Radio hit the bookstores last month. Ham Radio for Dummies by Ward Silver, NØAX. The ISBN number is 0- 7645-5987-7. There are 384 pages of explanations, tables, graphics, photos, and links to on-line resources. It can be read from cover to cover or used as a "get in, get out" desk reference. Ward states his goal was "to produce the book I wish I'd had when I was just starting out - a Desktop Elmer, so to speak. I hope the book will help us attract more people to ham radio and also help those that have passed the exam stay active in the hobby." It's available either in paperback or as an e-book.

Hide, JM1LJS/JD1 and Taka, JO2JDJ/JD1 will be on from Ogasawara Island May 2-5. They plan to be active on 40-10M SSB and CW. QSL JO2JDJ/JD1 via JO2JDJ and JM1LJS/JD1 and JD1BLK, another callsign Hide holds, via JM1LJS.

Vlado, ZS6MG, is in Nigeria on business through April 30 and hopes to get on the air with the 5N0DKV/6 callsign, HF and 6M. His activity will depend on his business demands, day-by-day, but most likely will be after 1600z.

3G1E will be the Chilean callsign June 5 and 6 for a group of operators from the Radio Club Arica, CA1WJB, CE1BPY, CE1LYF, CE1LXT, CE1POT, CE1RQB, CE1VLY, CE2WUI and XQ1IDM. They expect to get on 160- 6M SSB, CW, RTTY and BPSK31, operating from a lighthouse on the Peninsula del Alacran. QSL via CE1FA.

Ermanno, IK2WZD, will be operating as SVØXAN/5 in Dodecanese May 1 through October. QSL to his Italian callsign.

Gerard, FO/ON4AXU, formerly known as PA3AXU, has an itinerary worked out for seven islands in the French Pacific islands, French Polynesia, the Australs, and the Marquesas: Dates Island

Dates	Island IOTA	DXCC	Call
May 15-16	Tahiti	OC-067	French Polynesia
May 17-23	Tubuai	OC-152	Austral
May 26-27	Moorea	OC-046	French Polynesia
May 28-29	Huahine	OC-067	French Polynesia
May 30-31	Raiatea	OC-067	French Polynesia
June 3-13	Hiva Oa	OC-027	Marquesas
June 14-15	Tahiti	OC-067	French Polynesia

QSL to his home call, ON4AXU, Gerard Dijkers, Hobosstraat 28, B-3900 Overpelt, Belgium. He also has a web page: <http://www.qsl.net/on4axu/on4axu1/2004.htm>

Pete, SM5GMZ/XU7ADI, plans to be in the CQ WPX contest from Cambodia. SM5SIC will join him for the operation starting May 23 and running through June third or fourth, all bands, CW and SSB, with special attention paid to the low bands.

PIRATE ALERT: Hams in the United Arab Emirates say the telecom. ministry there knows nothing about A61BC, a callsign that has been heard on 40 CW. K3ZO says his technique sounded like a commercial or government CW operator.

Manuel, JW/CT1BWW, who also holds the OK8BWW callsign, may be joined by other operators for some Svalbard activity June 7-14. If so, they will have three stations on the air, 160-6M CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. QSL via CT1BWW. More details are available at: <http://www.geocities.com/ok8bww> and <http://www.ct1bww.4t.com>.

K6AA/P, the United Radio Amateur Club, will be on the air from the Banning House Lodge at Two Harbors on Catalina island, California, USA, NA-066, from 03Z May 8th until 13Z May 10th. They plan to be on 80-10M as conditions dictate, with eight operators on three 100-watt stations, mostly SSB with some CW and digital. QSL via K6AA's address on QRZ.com.

CONTESTS

Time	Date	Contest	Band	Mode
1300z 1900z	May 1 May 1	AGCW QRP Party	80-40	CW
0000z 2359z	May 1 May 1	US IPARC Annual CW Contest www.iparc.org	80-10	CW
0000z 2359z	May 1 May 2	MARAC County Hunters Contest www.marac.org	80-10	CW
0000z 2359z	May 1 May 2	10-10 Int'l Spring QSO Party www.ten-ten.org	10	CW
0000z 2359z	May 2 May 2	US IPARC Annual SSB Contest www.iparc.org	80-10	SSB
1200z 1200z	May 8 May 9	Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest www.sk3bg.se/contest	80-10	RTTY
2100z 2100z	May 8 May 9	CQ-M Int'l DX Contest www.mai.ru/~crc/crc_e/award/r150s_e.htm	160-10	CW/SSB/SSTV
1800z 1800z	May 15 May 16	His Majesty, The King of Spain www.ure.es	160-10	CW
0000z 2359z	May 15 May 16	US Counties QSO Party	80-10	CW
0000z 2359z	May 29 May 30	CQ Worldwide WPX	160-10	CW

Thanks to Bernie, W3UR and his Daily DX, and the ARRL for information used this month. I'd also like to give special thanks to Steve, W9XF for filling in last month while I was on walk-about down under..

Severe storm season is upon us and we remember the recent deadly tornado that struck IUtica, Illinois. Here is a QST from the ARRL showing how Hams once again helped in time of need. Ed

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB014

ARLB014 Illinois amateurs support tornado relief, recovery efforts

ZCZC AG14

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 14 ARLB014

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT April 23, 2004

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB014

ARLB014 Illinois amateurs support tornado relief, recovery efforts

Illinois ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Pat Ryan, KC6VVT, reports Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) team members and local radio amateurs in LaSalle County this week supported American Red Cross relief and recovery efforts in the wake of tornadoes April 20 that left at least eight people dead. LaSalle, Putnam, Kankakee and Will counties were designated as disaster areas. Especially hard hit was the LaSalle County town of Utica.

"There was an outstanding turnout by local and nearby hams," Ryan told ARRL. "Many local hams are assisting in recovery efforts and damage assessment." SKYWARN teams and severe weather spotters also helped spread the word of approaching tornadoes. Grundy County amateurs also turned out to assist in LaSalle County.

LaSalle County ARES Emergency Coordinator Frank Carraro, KF9NZ, said electric power was out, the roads were clogged with debris and "panicked residents of the area--some trying to get in, and some trying to get out."

Jim Stefkovich, KD5HLE, the meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service (NWS) Chicago Forecast Office, expressed gratitude for Amateur Radio's assistance in providing ground-level storm reports. "This was a true team effort," he said.

The Tri-County N9OUW repeater was put on battery power to provide essential communication. Hams also started up simplex nets on VHF.

LaSalle County Assistant EC Joe Tokarz, KB9EZZ, said some 30 amateurs responded in his county alone.

Salvation Army Team Emergency Network National Director Pat McPherson, WW9E, reports Salvation Army canteens have been roving stricken neighborhoods providing food, beverages and respite and assisting with damage assessment and cleanup.

"We used SKYWARN and our SATERN folks to keep us abreast of reports as the weather conditions turned sour," said McPherson, who's headquartered in Chicago.

Will County ARES Emergency Coordinator Rob Sobkoviak, K9NYO, said tornadoes destroyed one house and damaged dozens of other homes and businesses in Joliet. He said The Salvation Army--with SATERN support--was called in to assist with damage assessment and cleanup and to provide meals to affected residents and emergency workers.

Sobkoviak also commended the efforts of the ARES Severe Weather Net and of numerous weather spotters. Will County amateurs also staffed ARES stations at local emergency operations centers and at the National Weather Service in Chicago.

NNNN

THE BIRTHDAY MEMBERS OF MAY

ROBERT	KG9U	05-02-41
TOM	N9WBW	05-08-57
GENE(MAC)	W9LIW	05-11-25
WAYNE	KF9JC	05-19-39
JOHN	N9PPO	05-23-25
JIM	KA9OSW	05-26-27



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MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

April

30th: Monthly membership meeting at Wheaton College 7:30pm in classroom #138 in the Billy Graham Center. The Billy Graham Center is located on the South side of Seminary Avenue across from Old Main. Classroom #138 is on the first floor at the rear of the building on the west side. This months program will on voice operating procedures for public service events, presented by Joe, N9WRO.

May

4th; Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Resturant, Glen Ellyn

6th: Club Brunch **1st & 3rd** 10:30 AM Carol's Garden, Carol Stream

15th: **DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR JUNE.** Remember we are doing a limited printed edition. **Please be prompt.**

27th: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

WCRA General Membership Meeting - April 30th - Wheaton College - 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

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First Class Mail

