



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 511

Founded 1948

January 2006



**REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR A WORKER POSITION, SELL ADVANCED TICKETS TO OTHER CLUBS YOU ATTEND OR KNOW ABOUT, AND PUT YOUR DREAM LIST TOGETHER.**





## WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Mary James  
K9GAL  
WCRA  
Secretary

In lieu of a regular business meeting in December, WCRA held a club Christmas Party in our new meeting location of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton. November meeting minutes were published in the December HamLetter.



MORE OF 2005 IN REVIEW



### American Red Cross Increasing Participation at Hamfest

The American Red Cross will be attending the Mid-Winter Hamfest as they have done for many years. This year, along with demonstrating the capabilities of one of their emergency communications vehicles, they will present a slide show on the disasters they have provided assistance. The disasters will cover from the tornadoes last spring in Indiana to the hurricanes along the Gulf Coast.

The presentation will run about 20 minutes with a 20-minute question and answer period. The presentations are expected to run hourly during the hamfest. This presentation will be interesting to both ham and non-hams alike.

### JANUARY QST—VINTAGE RADIO ISSUE - Continued from page 4

Reliable old "Hints and Kinks" on page 63 has come up with a solution to droopy microphone booms that stick out of your headset. A rubber band properly placed does the trick. Bob Schetgen, KU7G is the author.



# JANUARY QST—VINTAGE RADIO ISSUE

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## **First Thing to Look For—WCRA Winter HamFest Announcement!**

Yep, there it is, right on Page 99—good directions and tell all your friends the “across the street”, EXPO venue that will be “just right” for us—Sunday, Jan 22 is the date. Thanks for our Committee and QST for getting it in there. We are on the north side this year.

## **Dr. Loomis, not Marconi, did the first Radio Broadcasts.**

Our history lesson in this issue tells us that a Virginia dentist, Dr. Mahlon Loomis sent the first radio transmissions from one hilltop to another using a telegraph sounder and crude antenna—the year was 1865. He received a patent for his system, but it didn't work as well as telegraph wires. So the next guy to try to send with a spark gap style system was Marconi, and he got all the credit! The story is on page 40-43.

## **More History—Is the Collins 75A-4 the Greatest Tube Receiver of All Times?**

This 1954 Classic rates four pages and great illustrations in a vintage product review. It was super in the 50's, and still stands among the best tube receivers ever built. Stu Cohen, N1SC, gives it a thorough write up-pages 36-39.

## **“It's Magic” – Grandfather Explains Radio to his Bright Granddaughter**

Don Metzger, K8JWR, does a great job on page 50 with a demonstration of “how radio works” to his granddaughter, and also recounts his own adventures in the hobby. After a crystal set building task, the granddaughter asks: “How does it work to bring sounds out of the air?” The simple answer is: “It's Magic!”

## **Samuel F. B. Morse Came First—a Cousin Tells All!**

Van Johnson, KH6UX, claims to be a direct descendant of the great telegraph inventor. Van, who is a resident of nearby Rockford, collects unusual and odd telegraph keys. Pages 51 and 52 show keys sculpted from odd objects. You'll enjoy the photos.

## **The Code Requirements May Be Different, but License Requirements Still Count**

“Meaningful operating privileges” are still a concern to the ARRL and their appeal to the FCC shows it. In “Happenings” on page 75, is a report on the latest developments since the 13 wpm requirements disappeared.

## **“Hand Me That Monkey Wrench”—A “How To” Column About Wrenches.**

Columnist Don Daso, K4ZA, gives a page (56) of suggestions on the care and feeding of adjustable wrenches. Hopefully, the article will “turn you” on.

## **Help For The “Droopy Boom”**

# Hamfest Update

January is almost here. While we are all busy with the holiday season and making final plans, the Hamfest Committee has been working since September planning for our annual event in January. The Mid-Winter Hamfest will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2006 at the DuPage Expo Center. This new venue is located across the street from the Pheasant Run Mega Center, where we held our hamfest the last two years.

The DuPage Expo Center is a newly renovated facility, which was not open until this past spring. A number of committee members had a chance to visit the facility in mid-November and were impressed with the facility and the cooperation of the facility management. We will be reviewing the logistics of this new venue at our January meeting.

As noted in our earlier meetings, tickets have been printed and distributed. If you need tickets for sale or consignment, see Bruce, K9OZ. Bob, KC9HOP, sent out the flea market mailing at the end of November and reservations are being returned, some even before the mailing, based on our flyers. Bill Hollister, K9WH, reports a good response from our long-term commercial vendors.

Todd, KC9HKN, has already received a welcomed early response for workers at previous meetings and will be looking to fill out the roster at our next meeting. Sunday afternoon cleanup is one area where we always need more help.

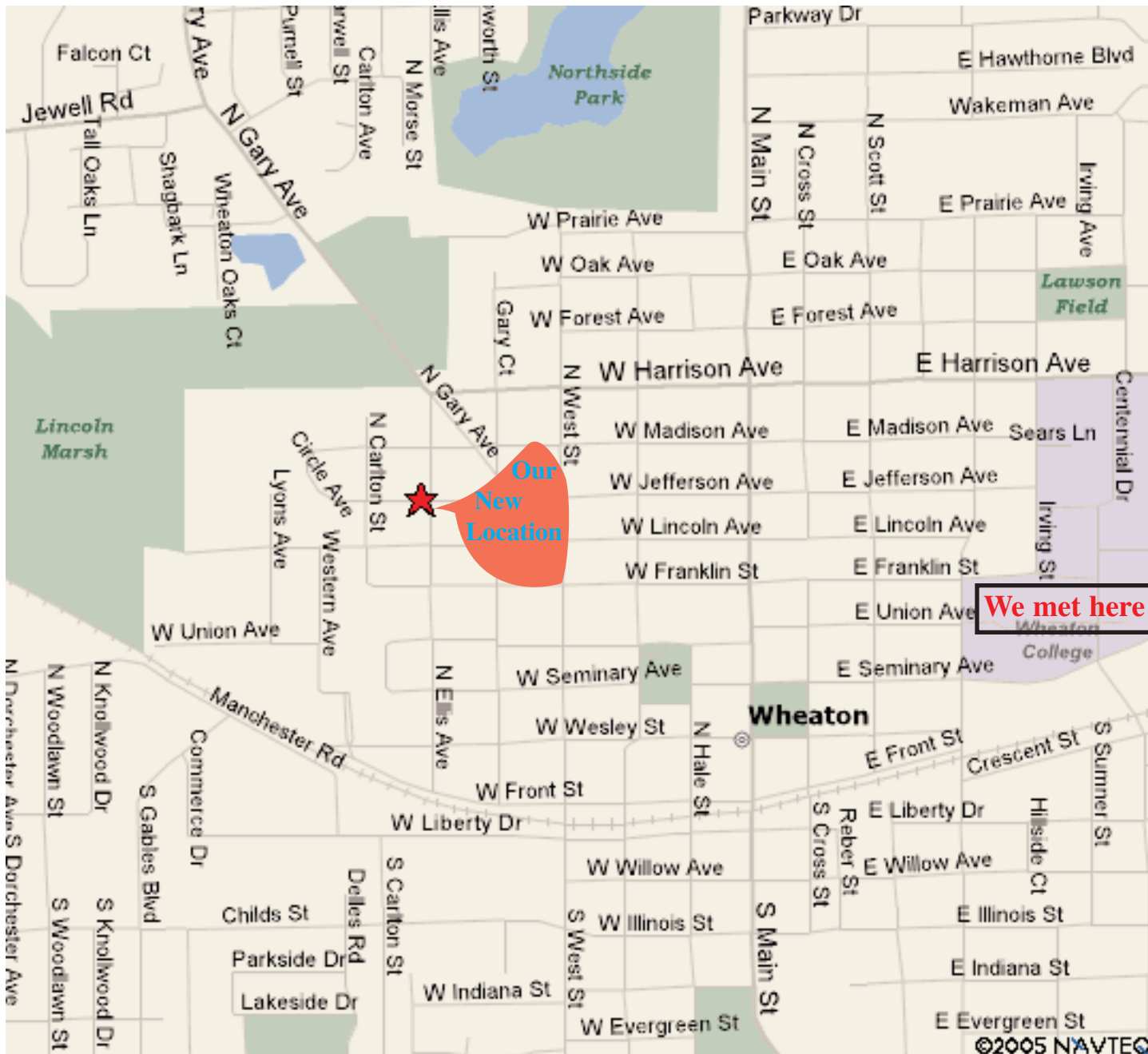
Here are the committee members, who have been made my job as chairman much easier to do:

John	WT9Y	Chairman
Bruce	K9OZ	Publicity & Tickets
Bill	K9WH	Commercial Vendors
Bob	KC9HOP	Flea Market
Ken	K9HQ	Treasurer & Security
Kurt	KB9RTO	Logistics
Tom	N9WBW	Move-in, Move Out Coordinator
Doug	W9NJM	Prizes, AV
Peter	N9HDW	AV
Tom	N9CBA	Web Site
Janie	AE9JG	VE Coordinator
Todd	KC9HKN	Worker Coordinator



2005 in Review

The map below from MAPQUEST shows both our old meeting location at Wheaton College Billy Graham Center and the new Location at First



Presbyterian Church 615 W. Jefferson Ave., Wheaton, Illinois. You can see that we have only moved from close-in Northeast Wheaton to close-in Northwest Wheaton. Talk-in for the Christmas Party will be available on the 2 Meter repeater at 145.39.

# OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY

GEORGE	W9GWR
SCOTT	KB9IYY
CAROL	KB9FYL

Remember that if you do not see your birthday on this monthly list it is because the FCC stopped including this piece of data several years ago and the editor does not have your information in his database. If you would like to see your birthday appear here please forward your information to the editor.

## Amateur Radio Toy Store

117 W. Wesley St.  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
(630) 668-9577  
Fax: (630) 690-9335

Sales and Service  
Icom — Yaesu — MFJ  
Comet — Diamond — Antenex  
and more!



Visit our new Web site at  
[www.amateur-radio-toystore.com](http://www.amateur-radio-toystore.com)

10 A.M. to 5 P.M.  
Monday – Saturday



Amateur VHF, UHF & HF – FRS – Short Wave Radios  
Scanners – Antennas – Books – Tapes – Accessories




# It's time to renew

Dear WCRA member:

We want to make it as easy as possible to renew, so simply fill out this letter and return it with your check to: **WCRA, P.O. Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60189**. Or bring this form and your check to January or February meeting.

Renewal deadline is prior to the annual election, which will take place at the April 7, 2006 meeting.

## WCRA Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call on roster \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL member?      Yes      No

Dues:

Full Member	\$26
Student/Senior Citizen	\$13
Associate	\$13
Family	\$39

Please enter only information that has changed

New Call: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

New Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

New e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Exclude from Roster:      Phone      e-mail

Please initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_



## JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 3rd: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- 5th: Club Brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursdays 10:30 AM Carol's Garden, Carol Stream.
- 6th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. See map elsewhere in this issue for directions. Talk-in on .39 will give everyone directions to the church and also where our meeting room is inside the church. Program for January will be the Hamfest.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for February. Remember we are doing a limited printed edition. **Please be prompt.**
- 22nd: WCRA Mid-Winter Hamfest at the DuPage Expo Center (Across Rt 64 from the Mega Center)
- 26th: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting -January 6th, 2006, 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:

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Wheaton, Illinois 60189

eMail: donlin@xnet.com

**First Class Mail**

