



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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**The October meeting introduced WCRA to the new technology of D-STAR. Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, presented a very enlightening talk about this new technology.**



Remember that the November meeting on November 3rd will have the following points of interests:

1. ANNUAL WCRA CLUB AUCTION. Bring all of those anchors you have been storing.
2. Update on the Christmas Party.
3. Tickets should be available for all of us to take and begin selling for the Hamfest.
4. Discuss the budget for this year.

**WCRA Staff**

**Elected Officers**

President	Don ,	N9NYX
Vice President	Bruce ,	K9OZ
Secretary	Todd ,	KC9HKN
Treasurer	Ken ,	N9HQ
Custodian	Bob ,	KC9HOP

**Volunteer Committee Chairs**

Club Call Trustee	Tom ,	N9CBA
Christmas Party	Ruth ,	KA9RZG
Club Awards	John ,	N9MWF
Elmer/Know-Code	Charlie ,	WB9SGD
Field Day	Dale ,	NJ9E
Hamfest	John ,	WT9Y
Refreshments	Bruce ,	K9OZ
Membership	Mary ,	K9GAL
Public Service	Joe ,	N9WRO
VHF/HF Awards	John ,	N9MWF
Webmaster	Tom ,	N9WBW

**Amateur License Staff**

Training Classes	Jack ,	KA9HEL
Volunteer Exam.	Harry ,	K9HK

**WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)**

Chairman		
Secretary	Doug ,	W9NJM
Member	George ,	KA3HSW
Member	Larry ,	KA9KDC

**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 Reprtr	

**HAMLETTER**

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Photos	Larry ,	KA9KDC
Features	Peter ,	W9UF
Features	Jim ,	W9DHX
HAMLETTER	eMail:hamletter@w9ccu.org	
This publication uses QuarkXPress 6.5 and Photoshop 7.01		



**From the President's  
Gavel**

by Don, N9NYX WCRA President

Hello once again from this vantage point on our club. Not a bad day to get out and trick or treat in Mr. Roger's neighborhood. Weather is not all that bad either. Some of you have a treat or two you could bring to the meeting this Friday and share with another club members through our annual club auction. Most of the club membership seems to enjoy just seeing what other members have to offer for sale. You can often take home something new for next to nothing out of your wallet. Of course having said that, there are always certain items that appear on the auction block that are priced out of most of our price range. Or the owner has not looked on eBay recently to see that the item he or she paid \$1500 for a couple of years ago now fetches \$350. Come and have fun.

On the business side of the meeting we will discuss and adopt the budget for this year. It is a month or three late but as my wife says, 'better never than late'. Come and see that the profit from our Hamfest in January does not go very far when asked to keep all of the activities of WCRA funded.

We rent the room at First Presbyterian Church from 7:30 till 9:30 PM each meeting night. As many of us experienced last month, Mark's presentation on D-STAR took up a major portion of the evening so we have to move right along when it comes to the business meeting. We may shorten up the break between the program and the business meeting if need be.

John, WT9Y, has indicated that there are several posi-

tions on the Hamfest committee that need to be filled or could use additional help. I am not sure the Ticket Chair or Worker Chair positions have been filled yet. If you have some extra time or would like to help out please contact John or any officer in the club.

We have experienced some changes in Net Control Operators in our Sunday evening Two Meter net. Please come out and support our new net controls and a very large WCRA 'Thank You' to those that have (Continued on Page 5)

# WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr  
KC9HKN  
WCRA  
Secretary



## WCRA Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2006

President, **Don N9NYX** called the meeting to order at 1930. Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by **Jim W9DHX**, **Peter N9HDW** seconded, and the motion passed.

President, Don N9NYX opened the meeting with introductions. Don N9NYX informed everyone that information about the club is now in the World Radio magazine (<http://www.wr6wr.com/>).

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs, WCRA meets 1st Fri/monthly, 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church (Jefferson and Ellis streets) in Wheaton. All are welcome. See our website at [www.w9ccu.org](http://www.w9ccu.org) for all club info. Annual Hamfest each January. Rptrs: 145.390 (-) 107.2, 444.475 (+) 114.8 Contact 630/604-0157

Vice President, **Bruce K9OZ**, the evening's program was on "D-Star" presented by **Mark WB9QZB**. Mark WB9QZB gave a very lengthy program on this new mode of communication. He also handed out information about D-Star and the current equipment that supports it. Bruce K9OZ informed everyone that next months program is our annual Auction, so time to dig out the stuff in the closet.

Custodian, **Bob W9BK** had nothing to report this evening.

Treasurer, **Ken N9HQ** provided everyone present a copy of the club budget. Ken N9HQ announced that the Balance in Checking was \$4200.00 and the Balance in Money Market was \$18970.00.

Secretary, **Todd KC9HKN** the club was informed that, **Bill N9BT** father had passed away. Peter N9HDW provided more information about where visitation would be held at. We had 32 people attend our October meeting.

Health and Welfare, The entire club membership wishes the Bill Thompson Family, our deepest sympathy and prayers for your loss.

Hamfest, **John WT9Y** was not present but **Marty N9NTM** asked about tickets for the 2007 Hamfest. Todd KC9HKN informed everyone that Hamfest tickets will be available some time next month. There is a need for volunteers for the Hamfest please contact John WT9Y or Todd KC9HKN if you can help this year.

RAB, **Larry KA9KDC** informed everyone that IRLP is available on the club 2M machine 145.390 with a node number of 4119. Thanks to Larry KA9KDC for allowing the club to use this service for a short time. Peter N9HDW provided a generator to Larry KA9KDC so that the club 2M repeater was protected during the power outage that followed the heavy rain and storms. Big Thanks goes out to both of them, Peter N9HDW and Larry KA9KDC, for their effort to protect the club equipment. **Kurt KB9RTO** asked if Don N9NYX was the current RAB president, Don N9NYX said he was not.

Public Service, **John Cheney N9MWF** informed everyone about the first responder training being made available by FEMA, NIMS Training IS100 and IS700. Information about this training can be found at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). Don N9NYX asked if John N9MWF could put something together for the hamletter.

Membership, **Paul KC9JTY** was voted into membership, the club membership would like to welcome him aboard.

Motion to accept reports by **Steve N9N0A**, Marty N9NTM seconded, and the motion passed.

Old Business, Kurt KB9RTO had examples of club jackets, hats, safety vests, shirts and provided prices on these items and provided order sheets to those interested. If anyone would like to order anything please contact Kurt KB9RTO. The more we order the more the price goes down for each item.

New Business, Peter N9HDW informed the club of the Camporall 2007 which is attended by All Boy Scout Troops, Venture Crews, Varsity Teams, Webelos Dens and Cub Scout Packs to be held at the Sandwich  
(Continued on Page 5)

# November QST Reviewed—DX Is In The Spotlight

By Jim Ward,

## **“HOW’S DX “ FEATURE REPORTS “NEW COUNTRY” OF MONTENEGRO—DXCC COUNTER 336**

Although it has been around for a while as a part of Serbia-Montenegro, when this new republic went out on its own on May 22, 2006 it was a cause for celebration. Nijikam, YZ6AMD, made the first QSO right from the opening ceremony. You’ll enjoy reading on page 88-89 about the DXpedition that produced well over 200,000 QSOs in three weeks of operating.

## **MORE DX FROM PETER I ISLAND—AN ANTARCTICA WEATHER CHALLENGE**

Twelve Days of extreme weather proved a real test of skill for the members of this DXpedition and the helicopters that ferried in their camp equipment and radio gear. In spite of the hardship, they managed to produce nearly 87,000 QSOs. The five page article beginning on page 52 tells the exciting story and includes a color photo of their QSL card.. Eight countries were represented on the trip.

## **TROPICAL DXING “IN PARADISE” WITH HOTEL COMFORT AND EASE**

The U. S. Virgin Islands were the target of DXer John Reisenajer, Jr., KP2/KL7JR, for a expedition with a tropical flair. John longed to be on the “pile up end” of a DX contact, and he had his wish, as reported on pages 57 and 58. From his rented bungalow on the beach in St. Croix, he was able to make enough DX contacts to “last a lifetime.”

## **W6RO—THE PUBLIC RELATIONS STATION ON THE “RMS QUEEN MARY”**

In the “Up Front in QST” feature on page 20, take time to read the story of how the original radio room of this ocean going beauty was restored as a public relations and demonstration station complex for amateur radio.

This is one of the top tourist attractions in Southern California, and Nate Brightman, K6OSC, the organizer of the project, recalls the exciting renovation from the start to the grand opening celebration.

## **A SALUTE TO THE GLOBE SCOUT 65 – A WORLD RADIO LAB SPECIAL**

The “Old Radio” Columnist, John Dilks, K2TQN, devotes this month’s column to that venerable beauty with a 6146 in the final. The two pages, beginning on page 94, will show you the wiring, tubes, and transformers that cranked out 50 watts on phone or 65 watts on CW.

## **FIRST PERSON EMERGENCY STORY – PROBLEMS ON THE ALASKAN HIGHWAY**

Hal Morgan, KLOWX, of Trapper Creek, Alaska, was opening the “Emergency Preparedness Net” when a live emergency took place. His story on page 85 of how the situation was handled is a classic example of how governmental and amateur workers got together to get the injured people evacuated safely.

# WCRA MEETING PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR BALANCE OF 2006 and January 2007

## November

November will be and annual Auction

## December

The December meeting will be a Holiday get together. It's held on our regular meeting night, the first Friday. We get together, share deserts, and sit and enjoy the fellowship. Again, bring the family and a huge appetite. None of us can leave until the food is eaten.

**January** We will finalize plans for the Hamfest.

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### WCRA Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2006 (Continued from Page 3)

Fairgrounds, Sandwich, Illinois on May 4-6, 2007. Peter N9HDW asked if the club would like to put on an amateur radio demonstration at this event next year. If you are interested in volunteering or need more information please contact Peter N9HDW. You can see a PDF of this event at:

<http://thunderbirddistrict.org/dru/files/Camporall%202007.pdf>

Dale NJ9E motioned to adjourn, Marty N9NTM seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2130

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

recently moved on to other interests. Support our club nets and repeaters. Hopefully the 220 machine will be back on the air soon after being repaired. Thanks Doug.

More details on our club Christmas Party will be announced on Friday. Hope to see a lot of you there.

Don

# The 10 Gadgets That Changed the World—a “WIRED” Article of Interest to Hams

*Editor’s Note: Our correspondent Jim Ward normally reviews QST for stories of interest, but this Month he found an listing of gadgets. See if you agree with the author’s selection—Jim did!*

“WIRED” magazine is an outgrowth of the electronic revolution—this months copy of “WIREDTEST” came to my mailbox, probably because I am a former subscriber. They did a critical review of over 300 products, including laptops, cameras, and cell phones—the whole spectrum of devices.

The “non-testing” report that interested me was Christopher Null’s opinion on the “10 Gadgets That Changed The World”. Of course, he bypassed the wheel, the plow, the gun, the electric light bulb, the radio and the chip.

Here is his list:

1. RCA Model 630TS TV (1946) priced at \$350 (\$3600 in today’s dollars). It had a 10” B&W screen.
2. Western Electric 500 Desk Telephone (1949) This was the basis for many phones to come.
3. Kodak Brownie 127 Camera (1953) This Bakelite beauty was a fast-loader and could fit in a pocket.
4. Bell & Howell Model 414 Zoomatic 8mm Movie Camera (1962) This was the camera that recorded the JFK shooting in Dallas in 1963.
5. Amana Radarange Microwave Oven (1967) It cost \$495 and was the first new kitchen appliance since the introduction of the modern household refrigerator in 1927.
6. JVC HR-3300 Videocassette Recorder (1978) The first home recorder gave you new viewing flexibility.
7. Atari 2600 Video Computer System(1977) Pong was great, but this device gave you a Game Arcade in your own living room!
8. Sony Walkman TPS-L2 Portable Cassette Player (1979). I had one of these and will bring it to the Auction as a great paperweight you might want to add to your collection.
9. IBM 5150 Personal Computer (1981) I had one of these, too, and had it hooked up for Packet in later years.
10. Motorola StarTAC Cell Phone (1996) This 3.1 ounce beauty made carrying a cell phone a status symbol—the advent of “personal electronics”.

I’ve had some “weird” gadgets—a radio built into sun glasses, for example. Out of the past, I remember putting a crystal set into a cigar box, and carrying a battery clip to hook on to anything metal for an antenna. Whatever the gadget, it is fun to be the “first one on the block” to own one. Happy gadgeteering.

## For Sale

Club Wears;Vests Shirts Hats Jackets....The More we buy the cheaper the cost. See Kurt at club meetings. or e-mail me at kb9rto@arrl.net. Kurt has an extensive price list from B&B Embroidery. Many of the items were on display at the last meeting. Remember that Chistmas is just around the corner.

[Http://www.geocities.com/kb9rto](http://www.geocities.com/kb9rto)

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

MARK	W9UZ
ROBERTO	WA9E
LARRY	KA9KDC
JOE	N9WRO
ROBERT	N9IRY
JOSEPH	KA9UJI

**IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO START  
PLANNING TO SELL ADVANCED  
TICKETS TO OUR HAMFEST IN  
JANUARY.**

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 2nd: 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. THIS IS A RELATIVELY NEW LOCATION, SO COME A HALF MILE EAST OF CAROL'S GARDEN TO PEPPERCORNS.
- 3rd: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39 will give everyone directions to the church and also where our meeting room is inside the church. Program will be our annual club auction. Business meeting follows the program.
- 7th: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- 16th: WEEK BEFORE THANKSGIVING. 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](http://vetesting.harrykamer.com) for the latest details.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for December.  
Remember the Club net on 2M is held every Sunday evening at 8 PM local. Followed by the 220 net at 8:30 PM local. Tuesday at 8 PM local on 2M is the ARES net followed by the Club 440 net at 8:30 PM local.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting -November 3rd, 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

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