

HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 530

Founded 1948

October 2007



Work being done on Larry's tower, KA9KDC, this past Tuesday afternoon by Tower Works (a commercial tower company). This work was necessitated after tornado that plowed through Wheaton on the Afternoon of August 23rd. Left picture shows the clubs 2M antenna being realigned to the vertical position. Work also performed by Tower included replacement of guy and structural hw. See the pictures in last month's Hamletter to note the differences.

Communications Trailer Arrives in Wheaton

by Wayne Kiser

The day finally arrived when our communications trailer was ready for pickup, so Mark Potter, W9UZ, Bob Seaberg, W3MDM, and Wayne Kiser, KF9JC, made the trip to Elkhart, IN, to pick it up. It will be available

for viewing at the meeting Friday.



"The trailer attachment cord to my pick-up truck worked fine," said Mark Potter. "One of the contacts on my truck plug was missing 12VDC, so I hope to have that fixed before the meeting. All the safety hook-up lights worked. They did a particularly nice job of mounting the ladder away from the trailer a little farther than normal to accommodate the spare tire. It is easy and safe to get on the roof and walk around the roof. The roof mount brackets with the all around framing look good. The cabinetry looks fine. The floor looks great.

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Don ,	N9NYX
Vice President	Peter ,	KB9KZO
Secretary	Todd ,	KC9HKN
Treasurer	Ken ,	N9HQ
Custodian	Bob ,	W9BK

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	Peter ,	KB9KZO
Membership	Mary ,	K9GAL
Public Service		
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	Doug ,	W9NJM
Secretary	George ,	KA3HSW
Member	Rich ,	N9DKO
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

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

Editor	Don ,	N9NYX
Photos	Larry ,	KA9KDC
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

As I tell everyone, Linda and I have just returned from a two week inspection of the western United States. We initially drove out to Seattle for a retired United Pilots reunion. I had hoped to find a busy simplex frequency as we drove west but this was not the case. I do get a lot of comments about my Predator screwdriver antenna on both .52 and channel 19 of the CB radio. So activity on 2M and 440 was not what I had hoped it would be. Lots of noise on HI as well.

I sure you have noticed from page one that Larry, KA9KDC, had some repair work done on his tower and our 2M antenna this past Tuesday. The tornado that visited us in August left its finger prints on a wide area of North Wheaton.

Also on the front page is a picture of the Club's new emergency communications trailer. A group from the club traveled to Indiana to pick up and drive the trailer back to Wheaton earlier this week. The plan is to have the trailer on display in the parking lot of the church this Friday evening before and after the meeting. If you have an interest in helping complete the outfitting of the trailer, plan to attend the October membership meeting this Friday evening at 7:30 PM and wander in and around the club's new trailer.

I created some confusion at the September meeting about this month's program. That is why I sent out the email to everyone letting you know that Peter, N9HDW, will be giving a presentation on his trip out this past summer to W1AW. Sounds like Peter will have some good information and his usual excellent pictures. November is the auction.

It is not too early to plan on what you would like to do to help in our upcoming Mid-Winter Hamfest in January at the DuPage Expo in St Charles. John, WT9Y, our Hamfest Chairman, will be able to give us a good picture of which positions are still open. I think there are several so come prepared to raise your hand and volunteer.

Speaking of volunteers, we could still use Net Control Operators for our various repeater nets. See a member of the board or the RAB.

Until next time,

Don, N9NYX

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Todd Carr
KC9HKN
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Meeting Minutes for September 7, 2007

President, **Don N9NYX** called the meeting to order at 1930. Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by **Marty N9NTM**, **Steve N9OA** seconded, and the motion passed.

President, Don N9NYX opened the meeting with intro-

ductions.

Vice President, **Peter KB9KZO** was not present. **Bruce K9OZ** there was no program this evening. The program for next month will be given by Peter N9HDW about his visit to W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station.

Custodian, **Bob W9BK** asked if all items in storage will go into the new club trailer. The club needs to determine what will go into the trailer and what items won't and what the club will do with what is left over.

Treasurer, **Ken N9HQ**, reported on the balance in checking and money market. The Wheaton Jaycee's donated \$150.00 to our WCRA club trailer fund.

Secretary, **Todd KC9HKN** we had 23 attend the September meeting.

Hamfest, **Bruce K9OZ** reported for **John WT9Y**. We have a contract, the rent has gone up, there will be a committee meeting soon, and we need volunteers.

RAB, **Larry KA9KDC** reported that the club 2M repeater status after the bad storms that came through the area. Larry KA9KDC reported that the tower had some small damage, a guy wire had broken, and we were on generator power for 5 days. A big thanks to Larry KA9KDC and his family for keeping the club repeater on the air during this time and to all that assisted in this matter.

(Continued on page 6)

"AS WE GO TO PRESS"--LATE NEWS ON JOHN, N9MWF

Our club VHF/HF Awards Chairman and DuPage County OEM Staffer, John Cheney, is "working part-time at his "day job" and taking it very carefully after a brush with a heart attack and hospital visit. John is a part of the WCRA Trailer Task Force and we wish him a speedy full-time recovery!

The WCRA community is always saddened to learn of the death in a member's family. The younger brother of (KG9H) Frank's wife Ida, died recently at the age of 46. Condolences to the family from the WCRA membership.

Communications Trailer Arrives in Wheaton (Continued from page 1)

They saved an aluminum channel piece about 5 feet long to put across the gap when the back door is down.

“The back door comes down reasonably easy. It appears to be sturdy and well built. The black coin flooring looks really nice and is throughout the trailer and the rear door. There are four keys for the door. We need a padlock for the rear door. They hooked up 110V - the lights came on, the air conditioner works, etc. The cable they left us appeared to be very heavy duty. Sizzor jacks on each side at the rear worked fine. Opening the door and the window gave me the impression that the trailer was well built. We did not pull down the awning.

“Driving was easy. The weight behind took a little getting used to. Handled well. The trip each way was about 150 miles. Wayne drove half the way, so we could each get used to it. We checked each item on the purchase order, so all was accounted for. Driving at 50-60 mph was comfortable. Almost everyone passed us up. The pucker factor was elevated when two long semis passed us at the same time.”

Trailer damage insurance cost \$60 per year from State Farm, who has the club's insurance policy. According to State Farm, “Whoever pulls the trailer, their liability is in force.”

“Now the real work begins,” said Bruce, our contact with American Hauler, the place where the trailer was built. .



ESTATE SALE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WIDOW OF VINCE GREENEN, K9VG

The following items are from the estate of Vince Greenen, K9VG, who passed away earlier this year. We have lots of radios, bench and test equipment, books and other miscellaneous items. Except where noted all items are priced as '**Best Offer**' and except where noted none of these items have been tested and are offered strictly **AS-IS**. If you'd like to inspect something prior to purchasing we can make arrangements for you to do that.

By '**Best Offer**' we mean that we will accept all reasonable offers. Some of the larger pieces will have minimum pricing and will be sold for the best offer above that minimum price. On those items where we're asking for a minimum price we think we've priced them very reasonably and doubt you'll find them for less on eBay or other ham radio classified websites. The proceeds from sale of this equipment will go to the direct benefit of Vince's widow so please keep that in mind when making your offers.

All of the equipment is shown and described at www.bananaboatbytes.com/estate1.html. If you're interested in any of it or have questions please use the e-mail link found on each page of the website or. Thanks for reading this and for taking a look at the equipment.

73,
Charlie, WB9SGD
Rich, N9DKO

OCTOBER QST '07 PHOTO CONTEST ISSUE

By Jim Ward – W9DHX

WINNING PICTURES ARE ON THE COVER—ANTENNAS AND SUNSETS!

If you want to be a winner, shoot an antenna in the sunset. Or if that isn't convenient, try an antenna against a mountain range or sunlit beach. Those are the first three pictures you'll see on the cover this month as winners of the ARRL photo contest.

Gordon West, WB6NOA, the west coast ham-education man, is the subject in a human interest honorable mention winner shown on page 21. You'll enjoy all the photos!

ALL-BAND ATTIC ANTENNA SCORES BIG IN SMALL SPACE

Kai Siwiak, KE4PT, prefers not to have his antenna outside to invite neighbor's comments. Instead he is running 100 watts into two strands of 9 gauge aluminum wire in his attic. They stretch 3 feet apart and 48 feet in length, then feed down into his ham shack on the first floor level of his ranch home in Florida. Enjoy the article (with great illustrations and performance statistics) on pages 33 to 37.

SPUTNIK REMEMBERED—TWO ARTICLES WITH PHOTOS

If you were around 50 years ago, then you'll remember the excitement on the morning of Oct. 5, 1957 when the Russians launched that "beeping" satellite. John Foley, W7ETS, gives his personal recollections of listening for the beep, and sending in a signal report for a QSL. His own card is reproduced in color (and translated) on page 51. More Sputnik lore can be read on pages 84-85 with John Dilks' "Old Radio" section. John has a photo of the popular SX-25 which he used to tune in the Russian marvel

POPULAR "J-POLE" ANTENNA SURFACES AGAIN

"Hints & Kinks", the QST section on clever ideas, presents a different way to build an old antenna on page 63. John Stanley, K4ERO, has come up with the idea of using sticky copper tape to create a "j" shape on glass! He says it is a lot easier to fabricate than copper pipe, and does a good job. He includes photos and walks you through the plan.

PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE SPOTLIGHT – A MODERN COUNTY EOC

With the Club's involvement in Emergency Services, we should all be aware of the need for an up-to-date EOC building. Flagler County, Florida, is the location of a brand new facility with a \$7.2 million price tag. Rick Palm, K1CE, takes the reader on a tour of the building so you can check out how we compare. See page 77.

PLUG IN FOR POWER—USING YOUR CAR FOR A GENERATOR

The few hams who have acquired a hybrid car have a distinct advantage during power outages; they can plug in their car outlet to power the house! Sounds simple, but it really isn't. QST Editor Steve Ford explains how it can be done in a practical fashion by the use of a UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply). He covers the subject on page 86 in his "Eclectic Technology" column.

Hamletter, Don N9NYX if you're not receiving the hamletter please update your email address with the club. Don N9NYX said he is seeing many emails bounced back.

Public Service, Don N9NYX there is a need for someone to fill this open position.

Web Page **Tom N9WBW** no report given.

Motion to accept reports by **Rich N9DKO**, **Mary K9GAL** seconded, and the motion passed.

Old Business, **John N9MWF** and **Peter N9HDW** updated everyone on the new WCRA club trailer. They gave a power point presentation to the membership present, which was a trip to the manufacturer of the new WCRA club trailer. The membership present got to see our new trailer, still in production. Thanks to John N9MWF and Peter N9HDW for this very good presentation and photos of the new trailer. The club trailer should be completed in a few more weeks if there are no problems.

Bruce K9OZ reminded the membership present on the joint Emergency Exercise between WCRA, W9DUP, and W9PCS on September 22 starting at 0900. If you have any questions please contact Bruce K9OZ.

Ken N9HQ motioned to adjourn, Marty N9NTM seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2130.

REMEMBER TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE HAM-FEST!

IT TAKES A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO HELP WITH OUR MID-WINTER HAMFEST AND MAKE IT BOTH FUN AND PROFITABLE.

PLEASE SEE JOHN, WT9Y, OUR HAMFEST CHAIRMAN TO MAKE SURE HE GETS YOU SIGNED UP.

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER



JOHN
STEVE

N9LIN
N9OA

If you do not see your birthday listed here in your birth month, please contact the editor with your information.

SET considered successful

The first DuPage County Radio Clubs Simulated Emergency Test went off with few hitches on Saturday, Sept. 22 with members of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs and the DuPage Amateur Radio Club participating.

Members of the two clubs checked into their respective 2 meter repeater nets, then joined on a county-wide simplex net on two meters then moved to 75 meters for a second county-wide net.

According to my count we had 35 participants, 31 on repeaters, 32 on simplex and 16 on HF. Nearly 80 percent of the participants were using emergency power, including mobile stations.

Feedback from participants from both clubs was very positive. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Bruce, K9OZ

Mid-Winter Hamfest Sunday, January 27, 2008

HAMFEST

Featuring a Ham Radio, Computer & Electronic Flea Market

DuPage EXPO

4050 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174

(Across the street from Pheasant Run MegaCenter)



Hotel rooms available at
Hilton Garden Inn,
St. Charles, IL
Call 630/584-0700
for reservations

- ◆ Hours: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ◆ Reserved flea market tables
- ◆ Plenty of **FREE** parking
- ◆ Hourly prizes
- ◆ VE testing on site

Talk-in 145.390 -

Tickets:

\$7 in advance with four door-prize stubs

\$9 at door with one stub

Flea market tables \$25 (no electricity)

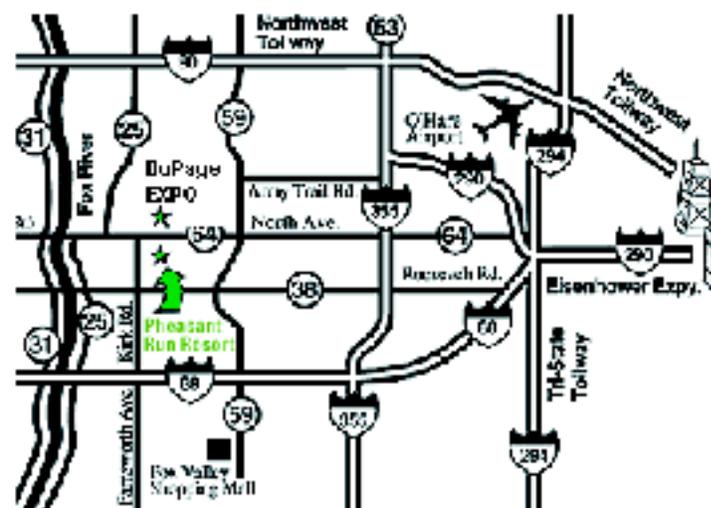
\$30 day of show (if available)

Electricity available for \$25

Full details call **(630) 604-0167**

e-mail: info@w9ccu.org

www.w9ccu.org



Order advance tickets with four prize stubs!

Name _____ Call _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
_____ Tickets at \$7 _____ Enclosed _____ Tables at \$25 _____ Enclosed

Mail to: WCRA

P.O. Box QSL

Wheaton, IL 60189

(Include business size SASE)

Advance ticket orders must be received by Jan. 10, 2008

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 2nd: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- 4th: 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.
- 5th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on .39 Program will be on Peter's, N9HDW, recent trip to W1AW.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for October.
- 25th: 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.

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.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting October 5th, 2007, 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 60189
eMail: donlin@xnet.com

First Class Mail

