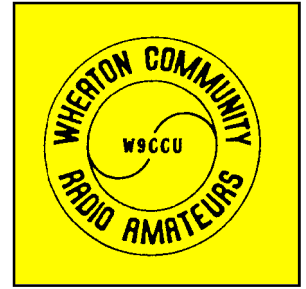


# HAMLETTER

## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
Issue 541      Founded 1948    September 2008



## WCRA PICNIC

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH @ 5:00 PM

BLACKWELL FOREST PRESERVE

NORTH SHELTER AREA, OVERLOOKING SILVER LAKE, WARRENVILLE, IL

Food served at 6 pm, followed by a FOX HUNT

**Entrance:** On the North side of Butterfield Road, about 1/4 mile west of Winfield Road. The area is about 0.8 miles after entering. Follow the main road ahead and slightly to the right. Pass the Boat Rental area on the right. You will pass Mount Hoy on the left. Pass the West Sector Maintenance Center on the left. Keep going and look for a Campgrounds sign on the right. Turn in there, and almost immediately turn right again and you will see the North Shelter bathrooms and picnic benches on the left. They are on a slight hill overlooking the lake - a very scenic location.

Note this is different from last year, when we were at Herrick Lake.

See: [www.dupageforest.com/PRESERVES/blackwell.html](http://www.dupageforest.com/PRESERVES/blackwell.html) I think the picture when entering the website shows the North Shelter Area from a distance. Get the pdf map and blow it up to 50% for a close look.

The shelter area has electricity. Bathrooms are close by. (Continued on page 5)

See President's article inside for details as what these members are trying to do



### WCRA Staff

#### Electe d Office rs

President	Mark ,	W9UZ
Vice President	John ,	N9NA
Secretary	Steve ,	N9OA
Treasurer	Ken ,	N9HQ
Custodian	Bob ,	W9BK

#### Vol untee r Com mitt ee 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		
Public Serevice	Steve ,	N9OA
VHF/HF Awards	John ,	N9MWF
Webmaster	Tom ,	N9WBW

#### Amateu r Licens e Staf f

Training Classes	Jack ,	KA9HEL
Volunteer Exam.	Harry ,	K9HK

#### WCRA Repe ater Admini strati ve 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 /(-1.60 0)	Net Control I: Marty

KA9RCC

#### WCRA Repe aters

145 .390 / 144.7 90	103.5 (1A) or 107 .2(1B)	PL Encode/Decode
224 .140 /222 .540	Carrier 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 ,	N9NYX
Photos	Larry ,	KA9KDC
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HAMLETTER	eMail: hamletter@w9ccu.org	
This publica tion uses QuarkXPress 6.52 and Photoshop CS3		



## From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN SEPTEMBER 2008

The September meeting will be the Annual Picnic at Blackwell Forest Preserve. The entrance is on Butterfield Road, just west of Winfield Road. Notices have been sent several times. Let one of the officers know if you have any questions. Be sure to let me know if you haven't already for the food count.

As I write this column on Monday morning, I count my blessings for the perfect weather we are having, hoping that the Louisiana coast and New Orleans does not get "blasted" too badly.

There was an "antenna party" at the home of KF9JC's house last Saturday morning. Wayne, being an optimist, told us that taking down his 40' tower and tri-bander would be a "piece of cake" and wouldn't take very long. Right..... See the attached photo. There was plenty of help. Lon, KC9OFG, an experienced Search and Rescue Services person, provided a Jeep Wrangler with a winch, which let the hinged tower down gradually. The party started at 10 am with Mark, W9UZ climbing and taking the TV antenna off. The tower sections and antenna were finally carted away after going to get a bigger carrier. Roberto, WA9E provided his expertise along with a ladder and other equipment. Almost everything ended around 7 pm.

In the picture are from left to right: W9UZ Mark, KAODSF Bruce, KF9JC Wayne, WA9E Roberto, KC9KHT Mike Wilson DuPage County OEM with

his 3 ? old daughter, KE6WNQ Marty and KC9OFG Lon. A Hot Dog lunch with all the trimmings was served by Ruth Ann Kiser.

Tom, N9WBW and Peter, K9HDW are mulling over ideas for the November "auction". Start looking for "junk" you no longer need, but might be someone's elses' treasure.

Mark Potter, W9UZ  
President, WCRA, 2008-2009

**WCRA  
Meeting  
Minutes**

Steve, N9OA  
WCRA  
Secretary



**Minutes for the monthly meeting of August 1,  
2008**

The meeting was called to order by President **Mark Potter, W9UZ** at 7:30 pm, local time.  
16 members were present, and introduced themselves.

Motion to accept Steve the minutes as published in the hamletter (**Tom N9WBW, Jim W9DHX**) Passed

VP Report (**John N9NA**) **Don Bakus** will be discussing 9-1-1 RF systems.

The meeting broke to the program at 7:34 PM local time.

The meeting was called back to order at 9:01 pm by President Mark W9UZ

President's Report (Mark W9UZ) **Steve Peterson, N9OA** was appointed secretary.

Treasurer's Report (Mark W9UZ on behalf of Ken N9HQ) All bills are paid.

Property Custodian's Report (**Bob W9BK**) Please e-mail Bob ( <<mailto:rhkrueger@comcast.net>> rhkrueger@comcast.net) if you want to use club equipment. Mark W9UZ commented that he CSU is jammed full.

Hamfest Report (**John WT9Y**) Sent RFP to Kane Co. Fairgrounds. The minimum rental time is two days. The estimated bill is still less than DEC. There is an estimated \$3000 difference in cost. A contract has yet to be signed. We will have to pay for snow removal if it happens to snow.

Public Service (Steve N9OA) No report.

RAB (**Doug W9NJM** on behalf of Don N9NYX) Don is N9NYX is the new RAB chairman. Doug's term on the RAB expired.

Hamletter (Don N9NYX) Absent. Mark W9UZ complimented Don in his absence on the quality of the Hamletter.

Website (Tom N9WBW) Tom requests that updates for the website be sent via e-mail to [tomneagle@hotmail.com](mailto:tomneagle@hotmail.com) <<mailto:tomneagle@hotmail.com>>

CSU Report (Mark W9UZ on behalf of John N9MWF) Work is progressing slowly. The tower will be going in soon after **Bob NV9R** is contacted to re-engineer his German engineering.

The next meeting will be September 5 at 6 pm. In lieu of the regular meeting this meeting will be a picnic at a park in the greater Wheaton area. All members are requested to bring a dessert.

Motion to have a Ham Radio White Elephant Bingo as the program. (W9DHX, **NJ9E**) Passed.

Announcement (Dale NJ9E) **Vicki Keith, KA9OEB** is selling her home. She has donated her equipment and generator to the club. There is still a tower and antenna that has to come down.

Announcement (**John N9NA**) If you lost a maroon jacket at field day contact John N9NA at jfsiepmann@hotmail.com <mailto:jfsiepmann@hotmail.com> .

Motion to adjourn. (Jim W9DHX, **Bob W3MDM**) Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

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### Continued from page 1

Bring a dessert, the kids, the grandkids and a healthy appetite.

A Badminton Net will be set up

Come early and walk around. We have to vacate the property one hour after sunset, which will be around 8 o'clock.

PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU ARE COMING, so we can get an idea as to how much food to get. Call if you have any questions.

## MEETING DATES FOR 2008

The following are the General Membership meeting dates for this calendar year. July 4th is the first Friday so we have selected the following Friday to meet. At this printing the First Presbyterian Church does not see any conflicts with our schedule. If a meeting date needs to be changed at a later date, we hope to give all of you adequate notice of the change.

**September 5th - Club Picnic**

**October 3rd**

**November 7th**

**December 5th**

**Mark your calendars.**

# Sept. QST – Emergency Communications

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

## COVER TRIBUTE TO HAM RADIO'S PUBLIC SERVICE

A colorful layout shows a Mobile Command Unit with a 100 ft. mobile tower from NE Louisiana (WA5WX), as well as two hams in their emergency positions. “The Doctor is IN” column on page 59 list some reminders for emergency power at home.

## HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MOBILE STATION

Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, is both an Extra Class license holder and considered to be “the father of APRS”. He is also the Director of the U. S. Naval Academy Satellite Lab. With those credentials, you can see why his article on “Maximizing the Mobile Motorist Mission” takes four pages beginning on Page 30. Get ready to drill holes in your dashboard. You’ll need a lot of equipment to follow Bob’s lead!

## PRIMER ON DX—HOW TO BREAK A DX PILEUP

Frank C. Getz, N3FG, shares his secrets in a one page article with 11 DXing tips to assure you success in your next contest. He explains the protocol that is supposed to make order out of chaos. Tip No 1 “Listen! Don’t jump into the fray before you understand the dynamics of the DX operation.....” Good advice, Frank. See page 47.

## LOOKING BACK – A WORD ON WW II EMERGENCY RADIO

As a high school ham radio operator in WW II, Bill McMurray, K4SG, did his first contacts in 1940 and early 1941. After Dec. 7, 1941, it was the War Emergency Radio Service (WERS). His story of subs sinking tankers along the North Carolina Coast is very shocking. See Pages 50 and 51.

## RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH RETIRES – THE END OF AN ERA!

Riley writes his farewell to the Ham Community after 10 years of “cleanup work”—and very effective enforcement for the FCC. This two page article also contains some nice tributes from ARRL bigwigs. See Pages 48 and 49.

## MAKE WAY, YOU D-STAR USERS, FOR D-RATS

Here’s a free software package that can be downloaded at no charge from: [d.rats.danplanet.com](http://d.rats.danplanet.com). Dan Smith, KK7DS, is the author of the Page 34-35 article on getting more out of D-STAR than just the basics. This particular application was used during the December of 2007 floods in Oregon, and was applauded for effectiveness in managing emergency activities.

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS NAMED BY THE ARRL FOUNDATION

Look over the smiles of the 51 Scholarship winners on pages 95 and 96. Seven of the winners are from “9” land.





 **Chicago**—“Your Kind of Town”  
for the 2008 ARRL/TAPR Digital  
Communications Conference

**September 26-28**

Chicago plays host to the largest gathering of Amateur Radio digital enthusiasts in the country. Make your reservations now for three days of education and camaraderie, including a Sunday seminar on Software Defined Radio by **Phil Harman, VK6APH**.

See the Digital Communications Conference site on the Web at [www.tapr.org/dcc/](http://www.tapr.org/dcc/) or call TAPR at **972-671-8277** to make your reservations today.

**The DCC is occurring in Elk Grove Village on September 26 - 28 and is the premiere annual national conference covering digital voice & data technologies & modes.**

**More information about the DCC is available at:  
<http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>**

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



JACK	KA9HEL
GENE	WB9JAB
TOM	N9CBA

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

YOU! COULD BE FILLING THIS  
SPACE WITH AN ARTICLE YOU  
HAVE WRITTEN.

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 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. The Club Picnic is the program with no meeting for this month at the Blackwell Forest Preserve.
- 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](http://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 September 5th, 2008, 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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**First Class Mail**

