



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 574 Founded 1948 July 2011



WCRA FIELD DAY 2011



WCRA Staff
Elected Officers

President Steve, N9OA
Vice President Vic, K9WXV
Secretary Kevin, AB9RN
Treasurer Ken, N9HQ
Custodian Bruce, KA0DSF

Volunteer Committee Chairs

Club Call Trustee Tom, N9CBA
Christmas Party Ruth, KA9RZG
Club Awards John, N9MWF
Elmer/Know-Code Charlie, WB9SG
Field Day Dale, NJ9E
Hamfest John, WT9Y
Refreshments John, WT9Y
Membership Tom, N9WBW
Public Service Steve, N9OA
VHF/HF Awards John, N9MWF
Webmaster Tom, N9WBW

Amateur License Staff

Training Classes Charlie, WB9SGD
Volunteer Exam. Harry, K9HK

WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

Chairman Don, N9NYX
Secretary George, KA3HSW
Member Rich, N9DKO
Member Larry, KA9KDC

WCRA Radio Nets

Sunday 8:00 pm 145.310/(-600) Net Control: Rotates

WCRA Repeaters

145.310/ 144.710 103.5(1A) or 107.2(1B) PL Encode/Decode
224.140/222.540 Carrier Access
444.475/449.475 114.8 Hz(2A) PL Encode/ Decode
145.390/144.790 103.5(1A) PL Encode/Decode

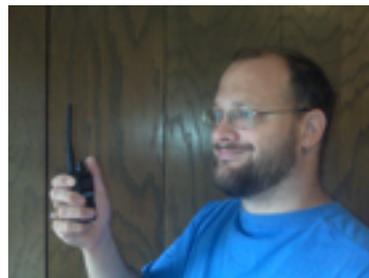
HAMLETTER

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From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

Members and friends,

Please pardon our dust! We are working out some kinks. Soon, all members will have a roster and their name tag if one is due. The board will soon have a meeting. If you would like anything brought up, please see me.

The mission statement committee has crafted a fine statement. "Our mission is to further the art of radio communications and electronics by mentoring anyone with like interests, participating in community events, preparedness in assisting in the event of a disaster where other communication modes can fail, while promoting social camaraderie among its members." Thank you to Tom, N9WBW; Kevin, AB9RN; and Bob, W9BK for all of their hard work. We will be discussing and voting on it Friday.

We recently had field day and the Forth of July Parade. Both where rather well attended and every-one's participation was appreciated.

73 until Friday,
Steve N9OA
Da Prez ...

THE CLUB IS ALWAYS LOOKING
AND IN NEED OF PEOPLE TO VOLU-
TEER FOR VARIOUS POSITIONS. IF
INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT
ANY OF THE OFFICERS. WHO
KNOWS IT MAY BE A CHANCE TO
START A LIFETIME JOB.....

**WCRA
Meeting
Minutes**
Kevin, AB9RN
WCRA
Secretary



**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Agenda for Annual Meeting - June 3, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER

Call Presiding Officer 7:30
Approval of Agenda Presiding Officer Approved

**INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS AND
OPENING REMARKS**

Introductions Entire Assembly N9OA, K9WXV, KA0DSF, AB9RN, N9HQ, NV9R, W9UZ, W9DHX, WA9VAA, KA9HEL, KA9RVS, W3MDM, N9VMM, AJ9M, W9BK, N9MWF, KB9RCO, WT9Y, KC9IJO, KC9TOD, KA9RCC, N9WBW, WA9ACO, K9ILF, N9HDW

Opening Remarks: Any Board Member Steve reflected on our past J-Pole antenna building project we did last year and his interest in rebuilding it with materials from Fry's. As a result, he has extra 300 ohm twin lead if you would like a 6 foot length for free.

Tonight's program: Vic, K9WXV Log Book of the World – John Faber

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Corrections: Secretary The list of volunteer station captains for field day was inadvertently omitted from last month's minutes. Approval Presiding Officer N9WBW motioned to approve, WT9Y seconded - approved

OFFICER REPORTS

President	Steve, N9OA	No report.
Vice President	Vic, K9WXV	We would like members to volunteer to lead a monthly club program. We are also interested in pursuing some outdoor/indoor activities aside from the club meeting for any ham related topic or event. Contact Vic with ideas and interest for both.
Secretary	Kevin, AB9RN	No report.
Treasurer	Ken, N9HQ	Checking balances were provided
Property Custodian	Bruce, KA0DSF	No report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Service Steve, N9OA Steve is looking for volunteers for the 4th of July parade. He has also provided a list of tactical frequencies for the event so you can pre-program your radio.

We will support a particular Chicago Marathon aid station in the fall. John Faber will lead our team. Steve will be supporting the larger central effort.

CSU	John, N9MWF	DC Wiring will be completed and tested in time for field day as well as the rotor installed on the mast.
Hamfest	John, WT9Y	No Report.
Club Awards	John, N9MWF	See below for John Faber recognition.
Field Day	Dale, NJ9E	We will be at Panfish Park in Glenn Ellyn again this year. Need a volunteer to help get food for everyone. Several stations will be setup and captains and crew are welcome to attend. Don't miss out on this great event! Setup begins on Saturday morning... at the crack of dawn.
Christmas Party	Dale, NJ9E	No Report. (Continued on Page 7)

“CQ Field Day, Whisky Nine Charlie Charlie Uniform Calling Field Day” -2011 Is History!

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

A relatively dry and comfortable Panfish Park contributed to the success of Field Day, 2011, as the Glen Ellyn Park District also included a Running Event and Lacrosse Practice on the day's Program. Reaching new heights in equipment development was the newly upgraded CSU (Communication Support Unit) Trailer.

NJ9E, Dale, FD Chairman was enthusiastic about the contribution of the CSU to the overall operation. “It really impressed the visitors who came in the Park on June 25th and 26th to see what Field Day was all about.

“Joe (N9WRO) has really worked hard to make it a top grade emergency headquarters, as well as a great asset to Field Day. The pneumatically controlled tower is in place and working, as well as the modern multi-band rig that came from Howard's(WB9IRH) Estate. We are now up to speed with a well-equipped unit, Dale added.

Preliminary QSO reports look like this.

CONTACTS BY BAND			CONTACTS BY STATION	
		%		
40	152	32	CW	176
20	267	56	40 PHONE	152
15	25	5	20 PHONE	116
V/uhf	27	5	SATELLITE	27
<hr/>				
TOTAL 471				

Field Day generated interesting visitors, including Glen Ellyn Police Officer Brian Beck; he was pleased that we had installed our promised Sanitary Facilities and that we were keeping the premises neat and orderly.

Mark Potter, W9UZ, former Club President and sparkplug for the creation of the much admired CSU, was present to inspect the recent updates on the impressive trailer. On Saturday he worked the 20 meter CW station with Gregg Schmidt, WA9SGF, of Brookfield. Mark was also back for another shift on Sunday. Other hamvisitors included Rich Potter, K9EIH, who logged his first QSO in 20 years on the 40 Phone station; his grandson, Nate, was at the logging position.

Chairman Dale gave special praise to the various Team Captains and Co-Captains that got the stations “on the air”, as well as the support workers. He also was strong to note the modern ICOM 746 in the CSU that has a built in CW keyer.

Speaking of CW, 176 contacts were made in that mode, on various frequencies, Dale expressed his appreciation to the paddle and key hams who worked for those contacts.

Other CSU features, such as the new DC power system, are now active, with both current and voltage

metering. The entire radio system can be powered by the two deep charge marine batteries with possible multi-day performance ability. Thanks, Joe, for having these behind the scenes features in place.

John Cheney, N9MWF, deserves a big hand for his work in assembling the Field Day data so that we can get our scores recorded in a future issue of QST. If it hasn't been reported to John, it won't get reported! Don't let your work be unnoticed.

With all the antennas pointed toward outer space, the U-VHF station had to be noted under the solo guidance of George, KA3HSW. Thanks to you and your 24 hour monitor on the birds flying past.

The bands were not in the best of shape, yet the low-band Hustler 6BTV proved to have an excellent tune for low SWR on all bands. Because it was easy to set up and provided good gain, better than the dipoles we have used in the past.

An "extra point all-battery station" was brought in by Hal Dennin, AC3Q. Hal was able to maneuver in spite of the rough turf at Panfish Park. Paul and Vic helped him disconnect the scooter and hooked it up for the ride home in the SUV. To quote him, "without their help, this old body wouldn't have survived.

Survive, he did using his FT857D with the ATAS-120, all set up on the Picnic Table. He worked 40 stations on CW and 26 sections, all on 15 meters. His antenna was the auto-tuned screwdriver which matches the Yaesu FT857D.

Finally, thanks to Mary Tuohy and others to who kept FD workers fed and provided with liquid refreshment.

Copper Wire

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, New York scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years, and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, in the weeks that followed, a California archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet, and shortly after, a story in the LA Times read: 'California archaeologists, finding traces of 200 year old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers.'

One week later, The Pioneer Press, a local newspaper in Minnesota, reported the following: After digging as deep as 30 feet in his pasture near Embarass, Minnesota, Ole Olson, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Ole has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Minnesota had already gone wireless.

Thank Heavens for Ole.

Who said Minnesotans are hicks?

FORTY METER SSB FIELD DAY REPORT

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

Each year the 40 Meter SSB team strives to improve on the experience of the previous year, and thought that others might be interested in how it worked out. Also, credit was due to those who contributed to what we think “made it better.”

The 2011 antenna system was a new, handmade dual full wavelength vertical loop at 34 ft. altitude intersecting at right angles in the center. The operator could energize either loop individually –or use both at the same time! This was done through a custom fabricated, relay controlled, switching system designed by Bob, W9BK. There was a single coax feed coming from the transceiver. Credit for handily getting parts of the antenna system safely snagged in the right trees goes to another Bob- Bob Schlotzer, NV9R. He does it with a fishing pole! Showing up early in the morning to provide for the antenna support were Tom, N9WBW; and Bruce, KA0DSF.

The Transceiver was John’s Elecraft K3 with pan-adaptor interfaced with a computer. This gave the operator the ability to point and click on to a frequency immediately. Simultaneously, the operator had front panel “knob control” of the rig.

Side by side Operator + Logger Computer positions for Single or Dual operation made the process more “comfortable”. In dual operation, the Logger would pick up the target station call letters on his template as the Operator confirmed the contact; the Logger would fill in the balance of the data and enter the contact. When no Logger was available, the Operator could complete the entry on a solo basis.

Thanks to the Field Day committee for the easy to use Logging Template. Working out the kinks of the Reporting system was appreciated.

The Captains, Peter N9HDW and John WT9Y, liked having volunteers who participated in working 3 hour shifts throughout the 24 hours , with “Night Crawlers” deserving special mention: Vic, K9WXV; Steve, N9OA; and Joe, KC9UHE. Other contributors to filling in the rest of the cycle were: KC9IJO, KA9RVS, W9NJM, KA9HEL, W9DHX and K9EIH.

Hams and other visitors encouraged the team and hope you readers were among them. A special moment for Peter was the arrival of a fellow church member, Rich, K9EIH, and his 7-year old grandson, Nate. After some urging, Rich took charge of the Operating position, with grandson Nick logging. Grandpa did some dial twisting and found a contact, getting his first 40 meter QSO in 20 years! What a great moment! (Pictures elsewhere in this issue)

That’s how, with the help of a lot of people, the team put together 152 QSOs.

REMEMBER THE CLUB PICNIC IN AUGUST

Hamletter	Don, N9NYX	No Report.
RAB	Don, N9NYX	No Report.
Website	Tom, N9WBW	It's up and the ham letter is published.
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	No Report.
Program	Vic, K9WXV	No Report.
Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	Press releases will occur for field day.
Membership – New Members	Paul, KA9RVS	KB9GTX was re-voted into the club.
Membership – Retention/Renewal	Tom, N9WBW	We've closed out the extension for un-renewed members to pay for their 2011 dues.
VE Program		No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mission Statement AB9RN / W9BK / N9WBW A proposed mission statement was read to the meeting attendees. The mission statement reads "Our mission is to further the art of radio communications and electronics by mentoring anyone with like interests, participating in community events, preparedness in assisting in the event of a disaster where other communication modes can fail, while promoting social camaraderie among its members." A motion to approve was carried and was seconded, but in comments it was suggested that we wait a month to vote until it could be published in the ham letter.

KA9HEL Jack motioned to wait until it was published in the ham letter and KC9IJO seconded the motion. A rising vote was taken and 8 voted in favor and 7 opposed the motion to delay the vote one month. Another vote to approve will occur at next month's meeting.

Cuban Stamp Book Jim, W9DHX Jim waiting for a stamp swap fest.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Presentation Steve, N9OA John Faber was recognized for his tireless efforts leading the club in his capacity as Vice President. John appreciated being recognized and remarked it was all fun and was glad to work with the club members in our shared interest with ham radio.

3FC, BSA Camperall – Oct. 2011 Steve, N9OA We need volunteers for this event as well as a leader to organize it. The event will be in Sandwich, IL.

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS

ADJOURNMENT

Entertain Motion Presiding Officer Adjourned

** Refreshments and meeting program will follow the business meeting.

HEALTH AND WELFARE REPORT

Field Day Chairman Dale Kwarta, NJ9E, made it through the weekend of the 25th and 26th of June in good condition, but on Thursday afternoon the 31st he ended up in the Emergency Room of Hinsdale Hospital with extreme abdominal distress. Some emergency surgery took care of the immediate situation, but the next morning Dale received the regular OR surgery! Plus that evening he was back home at 8 p.m. Under Nurse Ruth's care he had "almost no post operative discomfort" and everything should be back to "normal" by the end of this week. "I'll make it to the meeting on Friday" he e-mailed. Plus a final note of appreciation for a card and plant from WCRA delivered by Steve and Mary.

QST Review July '11- Ham Radio in the News

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

“THIS JUST IN...” – REPORTS THAT HAMS GET GOOD GRADES FROM THE MEDIA

Northern Illinois has mostly escaped the devastating natural disasters of Spring 2011, but the Hams in Tornado Alley have been busy. Joel Kleinman, N1BKE, gives a full page(12) of this month's issue to tell how the Media covered Ham assistance with the emergencies that took place in the South and West. There are many good reports, including Kristy Keane's story of how ARRL shipped five cases full of Amateur gear to Alabama. It is great to see Hams step up to a difficult job. See the Keane report on page 67.

IMPROVE THE LOOKS OF YOUR MOBILE MACHINE

Just scan the cover of this month's issue and you can see an exotic 75 meter Mobile Monobander Antenna that would make your vehicle stand out in the crowd. VE6AB, Jerry Clement, relates his story on pages 39-42 of how he created his dream antenna. Since he travels in his F-150 five days a week, he puts the towering Monobander to good use and has received great signal reports. He is most proud of the fact that other Hams have asked for the dimensions!

MORE INFORMATION ON “LOG BOOK OF THE WORLD”

“After the 73s” is the title of Steve Sant Andrea's article on Logging and QSL Techniques. If you're new to the hobby you'll enjoy the latest on what can happen after you finish a QSO. Steve covers the hard copy way to verify, and also the Log Book of the World. Since the recent WCRA meeting presentation on the electronic method (LoTW) this article is a good review of the “old and new”. It is on page 63.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS – Ready-Responsive-Resilient

That's the headline for this month's column by Public Service Specialist Steve Ewald, WV1X. His report is on the Tarrant County, Texas, October 16th 2010 Public Health Emergency Exercise with 45 Radio Operators participating. Also involved were the Texas State Health Department, the local American Red Cross and two local hospitals. Massive preparation preceded the event, with three months of planning and building of radio kits. The actual exercise took five hours. There are only two pages of reading (pages 70 and 71) but a bundle of great information on what it takes to be ready for an emergency.

MEETING DATES FOR 2011

7/8

9/9

10/7

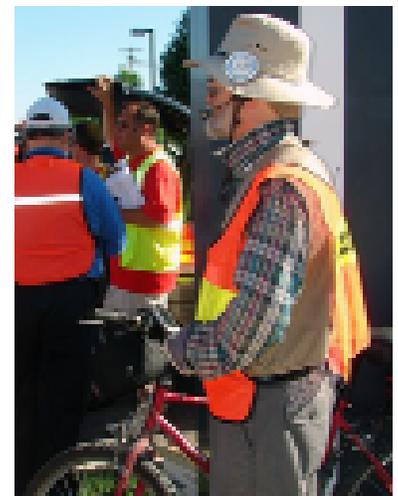
11/4

There will be a Club Pinnic in August and a Christmas Party in December in lieu of a regular membership meeting.

MORE FIELD DAY
PICTURES COURTESY
OF JIM, W9DHX



4th of July Parade with
CSU and Peter, N9HDW



OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF JULY



JOHN	N9MWF
CAROL	N6YL
BILL	K9WH
DAVID	W9AOK
DALE	NJ9E

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.

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 7th: 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.
- 8th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145..31. Program this month is TBA.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for August.
- 28th. 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. No testing on December.

Remember the Club net on 2M is held every Sunday evening at 8 PM local on 145.31 (-) unless it isn't.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting July 8th, 2011, 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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