



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly  
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
Issue 575      Founded 1948      August 2011



## QST 2011-August-Dayton & Plano Follow-Up

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

**“A TALE OF TWO EXPOS: Hamvention and Ham-Com”** – Biggest shows in Ham Radio

Four pages (62-65) of color photos of celebrities and products stand out in this month’s issue. All the ARRL big guns were on hand with new announcements and new technologies to dazzle visitors. If you didn’t make it, it is fun to read all about these two big events.

**COVER STORY REPORTS ON NEW HYBRID RADIOSPORT BY COLORADO SCOUTS**

It is called a “GeoFox Radio Sport Rally” and combines the elements of a Fox Hunting antenna/receiver and a GPS system. Read on pages 58 - 60 how the Scouts and parents of Troop 6, Monument, Colorado, played the game in the deep green woods of Pike National Forest. Technician License holders built their tape measure yagis in pre-event workshops. No foxes appeared on the scene, but two pack goats helped get the equipment on site.

**CRAIG FUGATE, FEMA ADMINISTRATOR, REPORTS ON HAM EMERGENCY AID**

The FEMA head is quoted—“we get so sophisticated and we have gotten so used to the reliability and resilience in our wireless and our wired and our broadcast industry and all of our public safety communications, that we can never fathom that they’ll fail. They do. They have. They will. I think a strong Amateur Radio community [needs to be] plugged into these plans.” On Page 66 QST also tells the story how Ham Radio was of vital help in the Joplin, Missouri, storm. The local repeater took the place of cell phones that were overloaded and mostly non-existent. The MESN(Missouri Emergency Services Net) was up for nearly 24 hours after the storm hit. Ham Operators assisted both the American Red Cross and SATERN and logged over 2000 hours during the week that followed the disaster.

**NEW “WORLD ABOVE 50 MHz” COLUMN EDITOR TELLS HIS HISTORY**

Jon Jones, N0JK, a Wichita resident, reports on his DX adventures in the VHF/UHF world with sporadic E contacts. He promises to keep you up to date on all the activities of this special Ham category, including Tropospheric ducting. His first column begins on page 86 and continues to page 88.

**40 METER FANS—HERE’S A SUSPENDED ¼ WAVE WIRE VERTICAL MONOPOLE**

Bob Glorioso, W1IS, has a 50 foot+ pine tree in his back yard. From a 45 foot limb, he has suspended the top of a 34 foot length of wire. The complete details of his wire in the sky are on three pages—34-36—along with drawings and illustrations. Performance? Bob claims great DX from his Massachusetts shack, but weak results on domestic stations.

**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

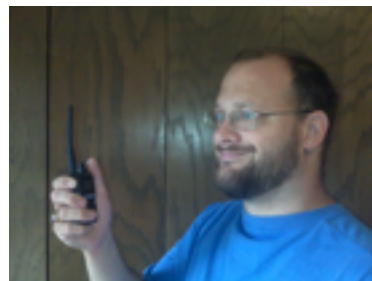
**HAMLETTER**

**Editor** Don, N9NYX  
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This publication uses QuarkXPress 8.12 and Photoshop CS3



# From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

Fellow Members and interested readers,

Welcome to another fine addition of the Hamletter.

It is hard to believe that it is already August. Before we know it, we will hear from Ruth KA9RZG on the annual holiday party and John WT9Y will be talking about the Mid-Winter Hamfest.

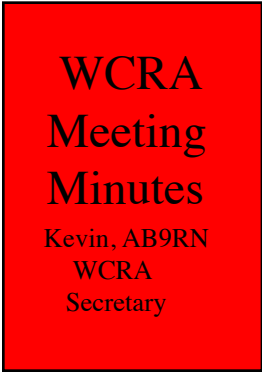
“Recent tradition” (sorta like a new custom) has shown the month of August to be our annual membership appreciation banquet. This year, we will be replacing the annual picnic with inaugural (also known as the first annual) member appreciation banquet. The event will be held in September in lieu of the monthly meeting in order to better accommodate summer schedules and vacations. I expect that the banquet will be more in line with “dinner time” so look for further details on that in the next Hamletter. Until then, please “save the date” and plan to attend and bring your cohabitants. Since there will not be a picnic replacing the August meeting, all may plan to attend our regular meeting at the regular time with a sure-to-be very inspired program.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting. Until then, the board is always here for you. If there is something new that you would like the club to be involved with, please see me. If there is something that the club is not doing please let any member of the board know and we will try and do it. Should you have any program ideas, please contact our vice presi-

dent Vic K9WXV. Having held that distinguished office for three years, I can guarantee that Vic would be very elated if anyone volunteered to do a meeting program.

Until Friday, happy hamming ....

73,  
Steve



**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs**

Agenda for Annual Meeting - July 8, 2011  
First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson and Ellis, Wheaton, IL

**CALL TO ORDER**

Call Presiding Officer Call to order at 7:31pm by Steve

Approval of Agenda Presiding Officer Approved

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

Introductions Entire Assembly N9OA, K9WXV, KA0DSF, AB9RN, N9HQ, NJ9E, W9DHX, WA9VAA, N9MWF, KD5TMU, KC9UKN, KA9RVS, N9CBA, KA9KDC, KC9UHE, WB9SGD, N9DKO, N9WBW, W9BK, N9HDW

Opening Remarks Any Board Member We acknowledged the upgrade and new calls for two people that attended;  
Tonight's program Vic, K9WXV Steve will present on the topic of HF Mobile

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Corrections Secretary None Approval  
Presiding Officer N9WBW moved second by N9DKO for approval. Approved.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

President Steve, N9OA Board meeting coming. All welcome to attend.  
Vice President Vic, K9WXV None  
Secretary Kevin, AB9RN None  
Treasurer Ken, N9HQ Ken gave a report  
Bank Account balances Balances were given  
Property Custodian Bruce, KA0DSF None

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Public Service Steve, N9OA Thanks to all who helped with the 4th of July parade. The Wheaton Park district will make a donation to the club with thanks for our help. The parade organizers were impressed with our CSU as well. Steve acknowledged all the participants during the meeting.

Chicago Marathon is next this fall.

CSU John, N9MWF Several major projects have been completed; 12 volt DC system, 2300 watt inverter, cable pass-through, coaxial interconnects were found to be faulty and need to be replaced.

There's an interest to purchase a D-STAR capable dual band mobile radio for the CSU. John will look into prices while Steve looks into the possibility of a donated radio.

The parade was attempted with the smaller generator, but was found not to supply enough power to maintain 120V with the AC on.

A spirited discussion ensued regarding other areas where we might consider to invest in equipment which centered around the topic of a repeater

Hamfest	John, WT9Y	No report
Club Awards	John, N9MWF	No report
Field Day	Dale, NJ9E	Field day went well. 471 Contacts were made plus 40 not reported.
Christmas Party	Dale, NJ9E	It's in December. Suggestions for location and food are welcome. Contact Dale.
Hamletter	Don, N9NYX	The latest is out... have a read
RAB	Don, N9NYX	.31 repeater and .39 repeater performed well for the most part, but there remain some items to look into with the .31 repeater. Additional discussion took place on the topic of improving repeater coverage. It was decided that a separate discussion involving additional members would take place in the future to get more input.
Website	Tom, N9WBW	Everything is up to date.
Training	Charlie, WB9SGD	No report
Program	Vic, K9WXV	Vic is looking for volunteers.
Public Relations	Mark, W9UZ	No report
Membership	Tom, N9WBW	Tom is reorganizing a few things including the gathering of alist of those who would like to acquire a club badge.
VE Program		No report

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

3FC, BSA Camperall – Oct. 2011 Steve, N9OA The coordinator from the Sandwich area will be in contact with us regarding details.

Cuban Stamp Book Jim, W9DHX Jim has stamp pages for sale with a 50% discount tonight at the price of \$0.50.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Adoption of Proposed Mission Statement \* The mission statement was re-read out loud at the meeting. A motion was made by Tom N9WBW and seconded by Jim W9DHX.

A motion to exchange the words “Our mission” with “The mission of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs” was motioned by Kevin AB9RN, seconded by Jim W9DHX and approved.

A second motion to add the word “amateur” preceding the phrase “radio communications...” was made by Peter N9HDW and seconded by Jim W9DHX. Discussion took place and a subsequent vote occurred with a vote of 6 yes and 7 no.

Finally a vote took place approve the mission statement as modified and was unanimously approved.

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS. Steve noted there is a sympathy card for AE9JG and KB9RTO for their Brother/Uncle who passed away.

2 Visitors were acknowledged and welcomed Steve KC9UKN and Harry KD5TMU.

Robert N9XS a former member is engaged.

Joe KC9UHE was voted in as a member.

The club is happy to see Dale at the meeting and that he is doing well.

**ADJOURNMENT** Adjourned at 8:31pm

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

\* Approved Mission Statement

"The mission of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs 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."

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## **WANTED! Beginning Stamp Collector**

The last item of the vast quantity of Don Drake's estate assets that were given to the WCRA is a Cuban stamp album. This contains over 170 colorful stamps on 65 pages in a loose leaf binder. However, they are a special kind of a stamp which does not interest the advanced collector. These are not produced for mailing purposes, and are known as "cancelled to order".

They are of interest to "newcomers" in the hobby and will be awarded on a first come basis to a friend of a WCRA member. So if you know a budding collector, pick up the Album from Jim Ward, W9DHX, at the next Club meeting and present it to him or her with the Club's best wishes for a successful collecting career.

A hooded robber burst into a Texas Bank and forced the tellers to load a sack full of cash. On his way out the door a brave Texas customer grabbed the hood and pulled it off revealing the robber's face. The robber shot the customer without a moment's hesitation. He then looked around the bank and noticed one of the tellers looking straight at him. The robber instantly shot him also. Everyone else, by now very scared, looked intently down at the floor in silence. The Robber yelled, "Well, did anyone else see my face?" There are a few moments of utter silence, in which everyone was plainly afraid to speak. .... Then one old man tentatively raised his hand and said, "My wife got a good look at you."

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



KEITH      KA9HPL  
JIM         W9DHX  
ORRIN      WA9VAA

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

**As many of you know Larry, KA9KDC, suffered a heart attack around the time of the July meeting. His daily condition and other comments can be viewed at: <http://larrys4275.blogspot.com/> You may post comments as well. Get Well Soon Larry.**

## AUGUST 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 145..31. Program this month is not known at this time..
- 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. 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 August 5th, 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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**First Class Mail**