



HAMLETTER
Published Monthly
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 583 Founded 1948 April 2012



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Remember that the April general membership meeting is the annual voting meeting on the officers that are up for re-election. In order to be able to vote you must be a paid up dues paying member. If you have not paid your dues for this year of 2012 there is an application in the back of the HamLetter which you may fill out and bring with you to the meeting. Your coin of the realm will also be collected on Friday evening.

NEWS FROM THE RAB

Another visit was paid to the 2M machine. This was another in the attempts to solve the problem of the low or non-existent audio when someone tried to get into the machine. This time Tom, N9CBA, decided to pull everything off the back of the controller while I catalogued where everything came from and went back so that we could rebuild the system as we found it. Tom also pulled the controller out and opened the top and rotated each pot just a tad to see if that might solve the problem. This may now be the source of the machine's low squelch and tone. We will attempt to correct that on another visit in the future.

After doing all of this, the machine was put back together and seem to be working except for the anomalies mentioned above.

If you have questions or comments please pass them along in an email and we will attempt to answer them in this article.

WCRA Staff
Elected Officers

President Steve, N9OA
Vice President Joseph, KC9UHE
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

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

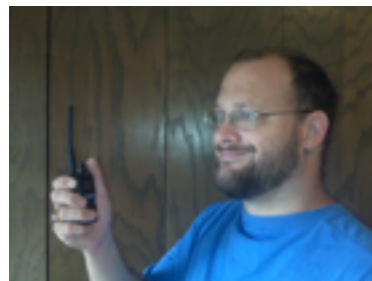
Photos

Features Jim, W9DHX

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From the President's Gavel

by Steve, N9OA WCRA President

From the President's Worn Gavel
Steve Peterson, N9OA

As I sit here writing my final article for the Hamletter I ponder many things. First, I realize that this is my final opportunity to submit an article by the deadline that I instituted. Unfortunately, best intentions did not meet with reality. At a deeper level, I reflect upon those goals with which I began my presidential term. I am sure that I missed on many points, but I hope that I met my first goal of giving everyone a voice. I know that I streamlined the meeting. It may have been too corporate or by the book for some, but I do feel proud of the meeting format two years later and hope you appreciate it as much as I.

I am also mindful now of how dynamic a group this is, and am very thankful of all of the officers and committee chairs who stood by me and helped guide the club toward and along its mission.

At the annual meeting on April 13, we will conduct elections and begin the transition of leadership for our club for the next year and beyond. To them and their posterity do I commit our destiny. I pledge to my successors and to his successors my support as a past president of the club and will advise them as best I can.

73,
DE, N9OA. QRT

WCRA Meeting Minutes

Kevin, AB9RN
WCRA
Secretary



Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:32pm
Introduction of members and guests: N9OA, K9JWG, KA0DSF, AB9RN, W9LIW, WA9VAA, AJ9M, NV9R, N9MWF, N9HDW, W9BK, N9CBA, KA9RVS, WB9FUB, N9NJM, KB9RTO, KB9RCO, NJ9E, KC9KHT, N9NYX, Colin
Officer Reports
A. President (Steve, N9OA) No Report
B. Vice President (Joseph, K9JWG) Out of Church by 9:45
C. Secretary (Kevin, AB9RN) None. Minutes approved;

Motioned by K9RTO, W9BK seconded

D. Treasurer (Ken, N9HQ) No Report

1. Bank Account Balances

2. Drake Scholarship Fund

E. Property Custodian (Bruce, KA0DSF) No Report

Repeater Administrative Board Report (Don, N9NYX, Chairman)

A. Chairman's report Check HamLetter for updates

B. Questions None

VI. Committee Reports

A. Public Service (Steve, N9OA) Catigny park is the place on 5/19 for the Scoutorama demo coming up with VHF/UHF/HF stations. Volunteers are needed. Michael Leoni of Winfield spoke about an interest to have our club support the county with a weekly net.

B. CSU (John, N9MWF) No Report

C. Hamfest (John, WT9Y) No Report

D. Club Awards (John, N9MWF) No Report

E. Field Day (open position) We are seeking a new chairman

F. Christmas Party (Ruth, KA9RZG & Dale, NJ9E) No Report

G. Hamletter (Don, N9NYX) No Report

H. Website (Tom, N9WBW) No Report

I. Training (Charlie, WB9SGD) No Report

J. Program (Joe, K9JWG) Methods and protocol for emergency communications

K. Public Relations (Mark, W9UZ) No Report

L. Membership (Tom, N9WBW)

1. Consideration of new members KC9KHT was voted in as a member

M. VE Program (George, NE9ET) No Report

VII. Questions for and recommendations of committee chairpersons: Several hundred pounds of weight has been removed from the CSU. Items removed will be available for quick access as needed per event.

VIII. Continuing Business Joe is looking to have the new 7pm Wednesday night net up this coming week (4/7) or next (3/14)

IX. New Business

A. Nominating Committee appointment Offices of president, property custodian and secretary are up for election as well as the vacated role of vice president which Joe has filled in for.

X. Adjournment: Adjourned at 8:01pm

Refreshments and program to follow the business meeting:

QST REVIEW FOR APRIL 2012-TITANIC STORIES FROM DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

April 14th is the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, so you'll be hearing many a story about the heroism of those who were rescued and those who might have been rescued. Two of the major stories of this issue are devoted to this event, leading off with Radio's Role in the Titanic Disaster on pages 30 and 31. The detailed story was furnished by the Steamship Historical Society, a group of Maritime enthusiasts. Another story is told on page 93 about Harold Cottam, the wireless operator on the Carpathia. His ship was 58 miles away from the Titanic when the unsinkable ship plowed into an iceberg. The only operator on the Carpathia, Harold took one "last sweep of the dial" and heard the distress ... --- ... call that led the Carpathia to change course and rescue 712 survivors. John Dilks, Editor of the Vintage Radio column is the author of the second story.

DX-PEDITION IN THE WATERS OF ANTARCTICA – THE ORKNEY ISLANDS

You've read many an article about DXpeditions in faraway places, but this one is among the wilder ones. Taking off from southern Argentina, a hearty multi-national crew set up their station on Signy Island in the South Orkneys. You'll enjoy the complex equipment roster and adventures with adverse weather (high winds, icebergs, and rough seas) and an unbelievable expense budget of one-third of a million dollars! Add to that five weeks of time from the hams as well as \$15,000 of personal funds. It is on pages 66 to 69. Note: Financing .VP8ORK, appears on pages 86 and 87, telling how they raised all that money.

ADAPTIVE MOBILE OPERATIONS – CUTTING HOLES IN YOUR CAR OR SUV

Chris Blake, NX4N, tells a personal story of how he set out to create an "ultimate" mobile station, using his Suburban SUV as a basic building block, with an 18 x 24 hardened aluminum plate as an antenna mount on the roof. Add-ons are explained on four pages starting on page 34.

FCC STAFFER TELLS ROLE AS EMERGENCY COORDINATOR FOR ARES/RACES

Curt Bartholomew, N3GQ, senior emergency and continuity manager in the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau at the FCC, spoke recently at the ARRL/TAPR conference. His remarks spoke to the issue of ARES/RACES and county officials. He cited his own experience as an emergency coordinator (EC/RO) for his home county; by getting to know and working well with county officials, he was able to gain significant placement of amateur assets on county towers and property with no fees and grow his capability accordingly. He was also able to recruit many new ARES/RACES members as a result of the enhanced footprint of Amateur Radio in the county. Good relationships with the local fire chief, sheriff, and emergency manager are the said. Rick Palm, K1CE, wrote the report in the public service column on page 81.

WATCH OUT FOR SPAM MESSAGES THAT ARE HOOKED TO YOUR CALL SIGN

Hams that have their calls incorporated in their e-mail addresses have reported to ARRL headquarters that they have received bogus e-mails, notifying them of a bill that supposedly needs to be paid. The e-mail instructs the reader to click on a link to view the bill. Clicking on the link could release a virus that can infect your computer.

Please be aware that these e-mails are not coming from the ARRL.

“If you receive an e-mail like this and it looks like it originated from the ARRL, please do not respond,” explained ARRL IT Manager Michael Keane, K1MK. “The best thing you can do when receiving bogus e-mails is to simply add them to your spam list in your computer e-mail program and delete it. Please don’t forward it to ARRL HQ—we will have already seen it and are already responding to it.”

-73-

The following are meeting dates for the WCRA club:

Apr 13

May 4

June 1

July 13

Aug Member appreciation dinner

Sep 7

Oct 5

Nov 2

Dec Christmas Party

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF APRIL



ANNE
DON

WM9L
N9NYX

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

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR DUES IF YOU
HAVE NOT DONE SO. PLEASE SEE THE APPLI-
CATION THAT IS NEAR THE BACK OF THIS
MONTH'S HAMLETTER. REMEMBER THAT
ONLY PAID UP MEMBERS MAY VOTE.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

P. O. Box QSL • Wheaton, IL 60187-5139 • Phone/Fax (630) 604-0157

wcra@w9ccu.org • www.w9ccu.org

DUES

- Full Member \$26
- Student/Sr. Citizen \$13
- Associate (No License) \$13
- Family member of _____ \$39/household
(Call)

Club Badge \$7 Name on badge _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Year _____

Cash \$ _____

Ck # _____ \$ _____

Name _____ ARS Callsign _____

Address _____ APT _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone : Home _____ Mobile _____ Work _____

E-mail _____ ARRL Member? Yes No

Signature / Date _____

Sponsor's signature / Call (new members only) _____

ONLY MEMBERS PAYING ON THE OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP LIST AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION ARE ELIGIBLE FOR BIDDING

Please indicate events where you would like to assist or serve on the committee

- Hamfest (January) Special Olympics (April) MS Walk (May)
- Field Day (June) 4th of July Parade Christmas Party

Please indicate additional areas where you would like to assist the club

- Website Newsletter Elmering VE Testing Member Retention

Other _____

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 5th: 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.
- 13th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145..31. Program for March is TBA.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for May.
- 26th: 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. Weekly ragchew net on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM 145.31 (-).

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting Apr 13th, 2012, 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:

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First Class Mail