



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Issue 616 January 2015



HAMFEST!!!!

IMPORTANT QST!!!
NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN FOR 2015 HAMFEST!
YOU MUST TURN INTO OAK STREET ENTRANCE.
THE RANDALL RD ENTRANCE WILL BE CLOSED DUE
TO A NO LEFT TURN FROM NORTHBOUND RANDALL
RD.
WCRA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ILLEGAL TURNS

The holidays are behind us and the New Year is in front of us. And so is your Hamfest!! Peter has some great forums ready (See article in Hamletter) and Mike KC9KHT has great workers ready to work. Hope you can join us the weekend of Jan 17th-18th. Tickets available at the club meeting in January.

See you at the meeting.

KURT
KB9RTO

Anyone interested in helping for the Hamfest should email me at KC9KHT@gmail.com

Mike Wilson, KC9KHT

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Event Calendar

01/09/15 7:30 p.m.
Monthly Meeting 1st
Presbyterian
Church
Wheaton IL.

01/18/15
HAMFEST!!!!
Kane County
Fairgrounds, St.
Charles IL.

01/23/15-Deadline
Hamletter

02/06/2015 7:30 p.m.
Monthly Meeting. 1st
Presbyterian Church
Wheaton IL.

WCRA 48TH ANNUAL MID-WINTER HAMFEST

ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET COMPUTERS AND PC PARTS & OTHER GADGETS AMATEUR RADIO EXPOSITION

FEATURING

- Free Parking
- Heated Indoor Facility
- Paved Parking Lot
- Food
- Amateur Radio Exams
- Educational Forums



An ARRL Hamfest

Tickets:

Advance, 4 raffle stubs \$8

At the door, 1 raffle stub \$10

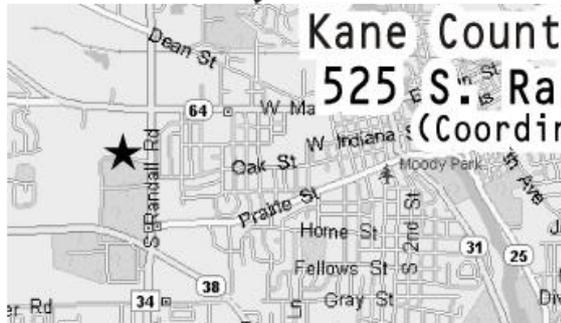
Children under 12 admitted at no charge

Exhibit Floor Rental:

\$25/table (\$30 after 1/7, if available)

Electricity available for \$10

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2015 Doors Open 8AM



Kane County Fairgrounds Expo Center
525 S. Randall Rd., St Charles, IL
(Coordinates: N 41.9056, W 88.34232)

www.wheatonhamfest.org

(630) 604-0157

INFO@W9CCU.ORG



Advance Ticket and Flea Market Table Order Form

Name _____ Call _____ Tickets @\$8.00 = \$ _____

Address _____ Tables @\$25.00 = \$ _____

Electricity (\$10.00) \$ _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please include an e-mail address so that we can confirm your order along with an SASE for delivery of tickets..

Mail to: WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60187-1055

HAMFEST!!!!

Forum Information

9:30 – 10:15 AM Forum #1: Ham Radio and High Altitude Ballooning

Darryl Hedges KD9AUK will discuss the use of Ham radio and APRS in particular in the exciting hobby of High Altitude Ballooning (HAB). Ham radio clubs and schools (elementary through college) are using HAB as a way of educating students about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) - four pillars of our modern manufacturing and high-tech society. There will be equipment displays and video clips showing groups (including recent KD9AUK HAB missions) launching and chasing their HAB mission payloads as they ascend to the upper atmosphere (80,000 to 115,000 feet) and then parachute back to ground with on-board video cameras, flight computers, and radio tracking systems. Maybe you'll decide to give Darryl a helping hand at one of his next balloon launches!

10:30 - 11:15 AM Forum #2: Broadband Over Ham RF Links - Hamnet Meshed Network

Is it possible for ham radio operators to have a broadband wireless network for the transmission of voice, video, and data as a backup, to the Internet and the commercial infrastructures, that we depend upon? Jim Kinter, K5KTF, is doing that! He is the chief evangelist for the Broadband Hamnet (BBHN) group in Austin, Texas. (Broadband is defined as greater than 1 megabit per second data rate.)

BBHN is a project wherein Hams use commercial off-the-shelf routers, install custom software developed by Hams for Hams, for broadband-speed digital uses. BBHN opens up a whole new world for Ham radio, allowing applications impossible with older technology.

Covered topics include: necessary gear, getting started, deployment of a meshed net in your area, benefits, permanent installations with links 9 miles and longer, public service uses, and more. Jim K5KTF will be leading the forum remotely via Skype from Texas. www.broadband-hamnet.org

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM Forum #3: Practical Safety Considerations for Amateur Radio Towers

Mark Allen, W6PC, (VP - Rohn Tower Products) highlights problems and risks associated with continuing operation, erection, maintenance and dismantling of amateur radio towers and structures that support antennas. Many structures are 30 or more years old. Common problems, modes of failure, preventive maintenance and related topics will be covered. The presenter is a well-known industry expert on commercial and amateur towers and is employed in an executive capacity with ROHN, an industry icon, designing and building towers for nearly 70 years. Presentation is approximately 45 minutes in length and will be followed by an interactive question and answer session, time permitting.

Meeting Minutes

WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS November 7, 2014, 1930 hrs

OPENING

Call to Order	0730
Opening Remarks/Announcements	The auction will be held tonight.
Approval of Agenda	Approved
Introductions of Members/Guests	N9HQ,W9UZ,N9HDW,KB9RTO,N9HDW,KC9YFI,N9LTW,KD9AHH,N9JPG,KB9UGJ,N9VDQ,KD9CHL,KC9KHT,KB9FYL,KA0DSF,WA9FTS,KB9RCO,NJ9E,N9DKO,W9BK,K9ILF,WA9ACO,KD9AUR,WA9SGF,N9OA,WB9FUB,AC9CM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

Corrections/Questions	None
Approval	Approved

OFFICER REPORTS

President (N9JPG)	2015 Dues are due by the end of this year. A new application and renewal form has been created which is available on the club web site.
Vice President (N9HDW)	The auction will be held tonight.
Secretary (N9HQ)	No Report
Treasurer (KB9FYL)	Balances were given.
Property Custodian (NJ9E)	Commercial HT's and repeater were donated to the club. Modifications are being made to the ham band..

REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

RAB report (KA3HSW)	The new Fusion repeater is on the air (.39) with limited range. The repeater will be moved to its new location on .31 in the near future.
Questions & Answers	None

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee chairs are requested to keep reports brief and concise. Please hold any and all questions for continuing business.

HAMLETTER (KC9LJO)	None
Website (N9WBW)	None
Public Relations (N9JPG)	None
Club Awards (N9MWF)	None
Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)	Steve thanked those that assisted with the 2014 Chicago Marathon.
CSU (N9MWF)	The CSU worked well for the marathon. Minor upgrades are in progress...grounding buss.
Interference (open position)	None

MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

Training (W9UZ)	This weekend is the final weekend of the General Class. 8 are attending.
VE team (NE9ET, de facto rep.)	None
[Meeting] Program (N9HDW)	Our annual auction is tonight. The program committee is looking for assistance. See Peter.
Club Nets (KC9YFI)	Tim is still looking for a control operator for the first Sunday of the month. See Tim.
Hamfest (KB9RTO)	Rich Bauer is handling tickets. We need to sell more tickets because this is the club's only fundraiser. A signup sheet was passed around for workers.
Radio GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)	Dale has most of the parts for future kits. Bill and he are working on the kits.
Field Day (N9WRO, KC9KHI)	None
Holiday Party (KA9RZG)	The annual party will be at 4pm on December 7, at Barone's in downtown Glen Ellyn. Reservations will be needed by November 29. \$20/person
Membership (open)	A new renewal form is on the club's website. 2015 dues are due by the end of the year. Two new members were voted in.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Questions for Committee Chairs	None

NEW BUSINESS

Don Drake award	The 2014 recipient is Steve Peterson/N9OA.
	B & B Embroidery (Hamthreads.com) is offering a massive discount for club jackets, hats and shirts. See Kurt for further details.

CLOSING

Anchors	None
Announcements	None
Guest Comments	None
Member Comments	None
Adjournment	8:07 pm

PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

Jan 9, 2015 "WCRA Hamfest Final Details"

Presented by Kurt KB9RTO Hamfest Chairman and the Hamfest Committee
(Note this is one week later than usual)

Feb 6, 2015 "Operating W1AW/9 from a Super Contest Station (WB9Z)"

presented by Mark W9UZ and Peter N9HDW

Mar 6, 2015 TBA

Apr 10, 2015 Officer Elections

(Note this is one week later than usual)

Thanks,
Peter N9HDW

Good Propagations- Club's Annual Holiday Party

By Ruth Kwarta KA9RGZ



The salad and bread
and pasta dishes too,
were served family style
Chicken parmesan too!

We ate, and we ate,
and we also did talk
but after sitting so long
it sure was hard to walk!

Was it from the sitting
or was it the eating?
We really don't know....
Just a fun type of meeting.

We ended with sweets
like cupcakes and cookies
this party was planned
not by some new rookie!

Twass the 7th of December,
A Sunday it be
When a group got together
full of Holiday glee!

Glen Ellyn is home to
the place called Barone's
where everyone gathered
for all the festivities

We started with pizza,
for everyone to eat,
then on to the tables,
we all took a seat.



A favor was given to
all who attended
to keep them nice & merry
long after the night had ended.

There were bells on the favor
that made spirits bright
to all a good season
and to all a good night!



REMINDER!!! MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!!

The club's membership dues were due by **December 31st, 2014**. Please visit <http://www.w9ccu.org/application.pdf> to fill out the form online. Dues are \$26 for a regular member, \$13 for students/seniors/non licensed associates and \$39 for a family membership. If you need a name badge please check all appropriate boxes and include the costs in your check/method of payment. The biggest change to the 2015 Membership Dues Form is the section indicating your privacy preferences. For more information or if you have any questions please email Carol (KB9FYL) at Carol.Schroeder@att.net or Ken (N9HQ) at n9hq@arrl.net

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES GO TO THE FAMILY OF

Nathan Volle, KQ9V of Glendale Heights on the loss of his mother Gwendolyn Volle, 97. Gwendolyn was a frequent visitor to WCRA events. Mrs. Volle passed away on December 1st and services were held on December 8th at the Evangelical Free Church of Wheaton. Also, friends and family gathered for a visitation at the Hultgren Funeral Home on Sunday, December 7th. Another ham in the family was her son - in - law, Russ Bennett, K9VSF.

Jim Ward
W9DHX



QST REVIEW **By Jim Ward, W9DHX**

For January 2015

NOT ONE, BUT FOUR DIY PROJECTS FOR SHARPENING BUILDING SKILLS

An antenna switch, a 30 meter transmitter, a linear amp, and a hybrid transmitter make up the DIY array in this month's issue. The technical section of the Index gives you a thumbnail sketch of each one.

CENTENNIAL W1AW/9 HOST STATION, WB9Z, IS REPORTED IN QST DX STORIES

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll see Mark Potter's story about the WCRA team helping out with the Illinois Centennial W1AW/9 "100th Anniversary. The Host, Jerry, WB9Z, is an avid DXpedition key player. The three page (72-74) article "K9W - Remembering the Forgotten 98" tells the WW II tale of 98 civilian contract workers who were captured by the Japanese during the Battle of Wake Island. Jerry also plays a role in the January, 2015, KP1, Navassa Island. DXpedition. The KP1 story is in the "How's DX?" column on pages 92 and 93. KP1 is the rarest of all DXCC entities!

ANOTHER CENTENNIAL-100 YEARS OF QST MAGAZINE TO BE CELEBRATED

No sooner had the organization started—"We need a magazine!" Thus QST came about and each month in 2015 an article will be selected to appear. This month it is about World War II. A copy of "Order 87" dated Dec. 8th, 1941 was reproduced. The order suspended all amateur radio operations. Under a separate article, it was announced that the Army Signal Corps was looking for radio operators, and a radio license presented to a Recruiting Officer would be automatically mean acceptance for radio work. Four pages of the wartime issue are reproduced on pages 76-79.

READ THE RULES FOR THE QST CENTENNIAL PHOTO CONTEST ON PAGE 81

The QST Managing Editor Becky Schoenfeld, W1XBY, strikes a pose at a W1AW operating console to show how to shoot a photo for the \$250 cash prizes. The winners will be reproduced on the covers of future QST issues. The article gives you hints on how to be a cover photographer and how to make your submission via e-mail.

WAYS TO SPEND YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT MONEY—BIG ADVERTISING SECTION!

Beginning with page 104 you'll see a display of ads by manufacturers and retailers of all the latest ham gear. There's even a "Morse Express 2014 Christmas Key" shown on page 60. It is not available in stores, but can be ordered by e-mail at www.morseexpress.com.

Dear Ann Ode...



Dear Ann Ode,

Since my 20 year old son moved away from home and became a fanatic ham radio operator, he never calls me or writes to me. To encourage him to contact me, I sent him a check for a hundred dollars to use towards new ham equipment-but I told him not to cash it until he first writes to me to say thank you.

A few weeks later, I saw on my bank statement that the check cleared. I was angry, so I called him and scolded him for cashing the check without first thanking me. Why did he do that?

Signed, Angry Mom

Dear Angry,
Because he didn't cash the check; he deposited it.

You can tell your ham radio troubles to Ms. Ode at ann.ode@w9ccu.org



Check us out on
FACEBOOK

Fox Hunt Report

1st Sat Hunt - KMart Parking lot, Elmhurst, Rt 93 north of St Charles Rd - CFAR input 147.750MHz

2nd Sat Hunt - Downers Grove Golf Club parking lot, off Belmont Rd south of Odgen Av - Simplex 146.565 MHz

3rd Sat Hunt - Centennial Park, Addison, Rohlwing Rd, 0.4 miles south of Lake St - CFMC input 146.160 MHz

4th Sat Hunt - WoodDale Rd between Thorndale and Irving Pk Rd - Simplex 146.34 MHz

5th Sat Hunt - Contact Mike at phone number below as hunt info and rules may be different from above hunts.

For further info contact Mike WA9FTS or call at 708-457-0966

Silent Key-Eugene "Mac" McAleer W9MAC

May 11th, 1925- December 17th 2014.

By Jim Ward W9DHX

Shown here is Silent Key Eugene (Mac) McAleer, who was president of the WCRA during earlier years, and also was the net controller of the "Teletype Net". The Net was conducted between club hams, each of whom had their own teletype machine. The net followed the regular Sunday night net on two meters. Gene learned to fly during World War II, finishing his B-29 training just as the war ended. He continued his aviation career as a commercial airline pilot. He also flew for the Illinois National Guard and was ordered to active duty during the Cuban missile crisis. In addition to his radio hobby, Gene was an active model railroader. Gene was the beloved husband of Elizabeth Lyttle, loving father of Russell (Alexis) and Michael (Kristen) McAleer and John and Patricia. He was also the cherished grandfather of Kayla and fond brother of George (Betty) McAleer.



WCRA Participates on ARRL "Centennial QSO Party"

By Mark Potter W9UZ

Contest Station WB9Z
December 5th found Peter N9HDW, Greg WA9SGF, and Mark W9UZ on their way, foggy and early, to Crescent City, IL. The day was considerably brightened after a brief stop at Dunkin Donuts. The purpose of the visit was to operate W1AW/9 during the 100th



anniversary year of the ARRL HQ station W1AW. Each ARRL region gets to use the W1AW/0 up to /9 call for 2 weeks. This was one day out of one of those weeks. Each band, 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 has four types of operation - Phone, CW, RTTY and PSK 31. Operating times are two hours each operating for 24 hours per day. The purpose is to spread the word about ARRL - and to make as many contacts as possible.

On December 5, we operated two time slots - 10 AM to noon and noon to 2 PM. Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z has a world class station. He lives on a farm originally owned by his grandparents near Crescent City, which is about two hours south of Kankakee, IL. Since his company installs, maintains and rents space on them, he is well qualified to use and maintain his 10 - yes - 10 towers on his property. The highest one is about 400 feet. Others range from 100 to 400 feet. The 195 foot tower even has a rotating base, made by K0XG. While ordinary people think of 10' Rohn tower sections as vertical structures, Jerry uses them as his booms - the horizontal antenna support system! Not just one beam on 20 meters - but multiple beams stacked and phased on 20! See his website at QRZ.com. Most of the antennas are "home brew" including a 3 element 80 meter beam and a 4 element full size 40 meter beam.

Virtually every station we called, including many in Europe, answered us on our first call, typically giving us a 5 - 9 signal report, strengthened by a 20 over 9 addition. It was great being on the reverse end of the "pile up". We stayed on frequency while all calling stations came to our frequency. Commemorative QSL cards will be sent to all stations contacted.

We are indeed fortunate having a professional Videographer in the club. Peter and Mark will make a presentation to the club in February.

WCRA Participates on ARRL “Centennial QSO Party”

By Joe LeFebre N9WRO

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party was a year-long operating event that celebrates hams making contacts. In the end you will have accumulated points, worked new stations and made new friends all over the world.

The Centennial QSO Party is made-up of two main activities: (1) W1AW operating portable in each state and most territories; and (2) The Centennial Points Challenge which is the accumulation of points from qualifying contacts made throughout 2014.”

On December 8th 2014 2 WCRA members, Mark Potter (W9UZ) and Greg Schmit (WA9SGF), operating as W1AW/9 from Joe’s (N9WRO) Ham Shack on 20M CW and Phone had a crack at the QSO party. They were running about 600W from my FT-2000 into a Cushcraft R7. Band conditions were, to be polite, crappy but fun was had. I had a lot of fun the prior day making contacts on 20M all over the country and got the HF bug again, but unfortunately Monday the band was down for most of the operating time. The good news is that both Mark and Greg got some good “fist” time in.



Help Wanted

The Program Committee needs an additional volunteer to help at club meetings to greet people, arrange refreshments and perform setup/teardown. On the job training provided! Lots of satisfaction in making the meetings more welcoming for people.

If you have a knack for hospitality, this is a great way to meet people in the club as well as visitors. Only requires coming a little early to meetings (30 minutes) and staying a few minutes after the meeting to cleanup. Contact Peter N9HDW to volunteer (n9hdw@arrl.net).



Hour Glass Videography

Peter Richey N9HDW Wheaton, IL
hgv1@comcast.net Phone: 630-690-2846

*Producing Video Memoirs, Personal Documentaries,
Narrated Photo Albums and Custom Videos*

Member of **WCRA** Since **1987**

**Contact Peter to record a video tour of your ham shack:
good for insurance inventory, personal web site, and
Amateur Television demo. Personal and affordable.**

CQ Hamletter Contributors

Is it 2015 already? Well I am looking forward to the Hamfest. (Hopefully I'll be able to get off work). I'm sure Kurt (KB9RTO) needs all of the help he can get. I'm also glad to see more club members contributing to this month's edition (and I can always use a few more). Thank you Joe N9WRO, Mark W9UZ, and Ruth KA9RZG for your contributions as well as my Hamletter partner Jim W9DHX

So if you want to get an article into the February Hamletter please email it to me at m2e1990@gmail.com by January 23rd.

Until next month

Mary Tuohy
KC9IJO

WCRA meets on the First Friday of most months at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, Illinois at 7:30 p.m. The church is located at the intersection of Jefferson and Ellis. The club 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 always followed by a break where light refreshments are served. The break is followed by a program about an amateur radio related subject. We would like to see you there to share the enthusiasm. If you would like more information about the club or would like a membership application visit our website at www.w9ccu.org. You can also visit our Facebook page.

CLUB OFFICERS-

President-Kevin Oleniczak (N9JPG)
Vice President-Peter Richey (N9HDW)
Secretary- Ken Kwasniewski (N9HQ)
Treasurer-Carol Schroeder (KB9FYL)
Property Custodian-Dale Kwarta (NJ9E)

HAMLETTER

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Our 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.