



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly  
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
Issue 621 June 2015



## Good Propagations



### FIELD DAY 2015

*By Joe LeFebvre N9WRO*

Field Day will be held the weekend of June 6/27-6/28 and will be held at PanFish Park again this year. Setup will start around 8:00 AM on June 27th and the event runs 24 hours (1 PM Saturday

thru 1 PM Sunday). This will most likely be the last year we will be able to use that venue as they going to use the portion of the park we use for a new PD facility. As of now we will be running as 3A with 2 phone stations (20M in the CSU and 40M in a camper trailer) and Mark running CW from his tent; a satellite station and our GOTA station. We have been there for many years and the location and setup will be close to what we have done in the past with a few exceptions. We will be using a 25KW diesel generator that is much quieter that our gas generator and hopefully I will get the raising fixture done for a 30' steel push up mast that will hold the Cushcraft D4 rotatable dipole I have.

There is still more work to be done but we had a very productive work day yesterday. We will have at one more work day (hopefully) and then work on the Friday before the event to get the trailer loaded and out of the garage and ready to go Saturday morning.

As is usual this Field Day will be well planned and documented well in advance of the actual Field Day weekend.

We have a lot of new members and new Hams and I encourage them to come out. They can work the GOTA station for bonus points and get some experience on HF as well as contesting and possibly getting some time logging and some air time. For the new members Field Day is sort of a combination of contesting and EMCOM (Emergency Communications). It is a lot of fun and a good learning experience (despite the weather issues that usually plague us.....).

**Hope to see you all there.**

**73, Joe, N9WRO**

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### Event Calendar

06/05/15 7:30 p.m.  
Monthly meeting. 1st  
Presbyterian Church  
Wheaton IL.

06/14/2015 American  
Diabetes Association  
Tour De Cure Bike  
Ride

06/27 & 28/15 Field  
Day

07/04/2015-Wheaton  
4th of July Parade

07/10/2015 7:30 p.m.  
Monthly Meeting. 1st  
Presbyterian Church  
Wheaton IL.



## PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE HELP WANTED

Our club needs your help! We have a few open positions that we need to fill.

**Hamletter Editor-n-Chief** – We are looking for someone who can receive articles from our members and lay them out in the easy to read format that you are viewing now.

**Boy Scout Jamberall lead** – The person in this position will work with Jamberall staff to secure a location for the club to set up the CSU or another display. They will also work with the club to recruit and schedule people to assist in an amateur radio related demonstration to be chosen by the lead.

**Interference Chairman** – The interference committee should be established to assist club members in tracking down and, when possible, mitigating interference. Someone with a strong background in direction finding would be ideal to be the chairman of this committee.

**Membership Chairman** – Are you good with people? Do you like recruiting people into the best club in the area? Heading up the Membership committee would be perfect for you.

**Field Day Digital Station Captain** – If you enjoy digital modes, we are looking for someone to head up the digital station at Field Day. At a minimum, you will need to supply or arrange for a computer and radio interface, and request radio related equipment from the Property Custodian, or you can furnish the entire station, if you prefer.

**Field Day Food Unit Leader** – We all like being feed. The Field Day team is looking for someone to help coordinate the all the food. We already have some things lined up, but there are still some details that require someone to head it up.

If you are interested in any or the positions above, or would like some more information, please email me at [KC9KHT@gmail.com](mailto:KC9KHT@gmail.com) or talk to me at the meeting.

**MIKE WILSON**  
**KC9KHT**  
**CLUB PRESIDENT**

# Meeting Minutes

## WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS May 1, 2015, 1930 hrs

### OPENING

<b>Call to Order</b>	Called to order at 7:30 pm
<b>Opening Remarks/Announcements</b>	This is my first meeting as your president. Please bear with me.
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	Approved
<b>Members/Guests</b>	N9HQ,N9VDQ,KD9DJT,KC9YFI,N9MWF,W9UZ,NV9R,N9OA, N9CBA, AC9CN,KD9AUK,AJ9M,KD9CHL,AC9MM,KD9AUP,KF5IV,N J9E,KC9KHT,N9HLG,W9BK,N9DKO,N9DKN,KB9FYL,WA9E MO, KA3HSW, N9JPG, KD9AHH, KB9WBX                      Guests: W9DBX, KC9YFD

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES - prior meeting

<b>Corrections/Questions</b>	None
<b>Approval</b>	Approved

### OFFICER REPORTS

<b>President (KC9KHT)</b>	None
<b>Vice President (KC9YFI)</b>	A video on tower safety will be tonight's program. Next month will be Field Day preparations.
<b>Secretary (N9HQ)</b>	A name badge order will be put in. See Ken if you need one.
<b>Treasurer (KB9FYL)</b>	The balances were given. Please get your expense sheets in to Carol.
<b>Property Custodian (NJ9E)</b>	The 746 Pro will be repaired. It is now in Dales' possession. The handheld radios are being cleaned and programmed.

### REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (RAB)

<b>RAB report (WA9E)</b>	The Fusion machines have been shipped and we should receive them next week. The 440 machine is down for repairs. Roberto has it. The 39 machine has been tweaked. A letter from COD was received and a thorough investigation will take place on their behalf.
<b>Questions &amp; Answers</b>	Has the RAB thought about new homes for the repeaters? Yes, Wheaton College is a possibility. Opportunities are not abundant. Please let the RAB know if you have any suggestions.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

<b>HAMLETTER (KC9IJO)</b>	The June edition of the Hamletter will be the last unless someone steps forward to take over the position.
<b>Website (N9WBW)</b>	None

## Meeting Minutes (Continued)

<b>Public Relations (N9JPG)</b>	None
<b>Club Awards (N9MWF)</b>	The awards for the retiring officers will be here next month.
<b>Public Service/Emergency (N9OA)</b>	The Special Olympics went very well. The Wheaton 4 <sup>th</sup> of July parade is upcoming..
<b>CSU (N9MWF)</b>	A work date for the CSU will be, Saturday, May 9. Several items need repair.
<b>Interference (open position)</b>	None
<b>Training (W9UZ)</b>	A tentative technician class followed by a general class will be held in the fall.
<b>VE team</b>	None
<b>[Meeting] Program (KC9YFI)</b>	Today's program will be in regards to tower safety.
<b>Club Nets (KC9YFI)</b>	Sunday night nets. Please join in. Help is needed. See Tim.
<b>Hamfest (W9BK)</b>	None
<b>GO KIT Fundraising (NJ9E)</b>	None
<b>Field Day (N9WRO)</b>	We are still looking at being a 3A station. Help is needed. A borrowed generator is being looked into. A clipboard was being passed around for help.
<b>Holiday Party (KA9RZG)</b>	Will be in December.
<b>Membership (open)</b>	None

### CONTINUING BUSINESS

<b>Questions for Committee Chairs</b>	New members: Dennis/KE9VG, Mike/W9MJS were voted in.

### NEW BUSINESS

<b>Peoria Superfest ticket giveaway</b>	Will be given away next month.
	Darryl Hedges spoke briefly about a weather balloon launch he took part in.

### CLOSING

<b>anchors</b>	A few books are available from Mark Potter. An FT101E is for sale. See Tim.
<b>Announcements</b>	None
<b>Guest Comments</b>	None
<b>Member Comments</b>	The Sandwich Hamfest is this Sunday.
<b>Adjournment</b>	Adjourned 8:15 pm.

# PROGRAM MEETING NOTES/SUNDAY NIGHT NETS

## Weekly Net Control operators

6/7 Louie N9LTW

6/14 Jim W9DHX

6/21 George KA3HSW

6/28 Bob W9BK

Also A reminder of upcoming Club Meetings and Programs

June 5, 2015 Program will be "Field Day Prep" presented by the Field Day Committee

July 10, 2015 Program will be "Show and Tell : Projects" members should bring pictures (or projects themselves if small enough) to share with the club and describe what they are building and how they are doing it.

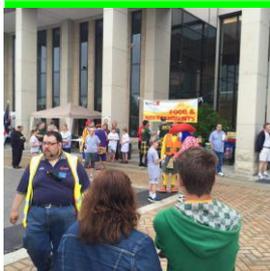
Thank You

Timothy Wheeler  
KC9YFI

**WCRA Vice-President**

**WCRA Program Committee Chair**

**WCRA Net Coordinator**



## IN THE NEWS

**WRCA Helps out with Children's Dyslexia Center of Metropolitan Chicago's annual Walk to help Children with Dyslexia.**

It was a cool morning on May 16th and WCRA members came out to help with radio communications for the Scottish Masons and the Children's Dyslexia Center of Metropolitan Chicago's annual "Walk to help children with Dyslexia." The club also had help from the Shrine Amateur Radio Club and members of the DuPage Amateur Radio Club. John N9MWF was yet again able to assist with weather and any task that was assigned to him. So a thank you goes to Steve N9OA, Janie AE9JG, Dale NJ9E, Mark KD9DJX, Mike W KC9KHT, Mike L KG9KR, John KA9MJE, Marianna KC9JLK, . Bryan KC9GRH, and Charlie KD9DRI for their help with this year's project. The Dyslexia Walk committee was happy with our help and I hope to get our Go Box on wheels there next year.

***Sincerely Kurt F Rubin***

***Safety Coordinator & Communications liaison for the Dyslexia Center Walk of Chicago***

## An Important Notice from the ARRL

### **FCC ELIMINATES AMATEUR RADIO VANITY CALL SIGN REGULATORY FEE**

ZCZC AG19  
QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 19 ARLB019  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT May 26, 2015  
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB019  
ARLB019 FCC Eliminates Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Regulatory Fee

The FCC is eliminating the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order (MD Docket 14-92 and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

"The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee category. The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is \$21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100.

In its 2014 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent Report and Order (R&O) last summer, however, that it did not have "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process."

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

## An Important Notice from the ARRL Continued

"The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant can be issued that call sign," the FCC explained. "In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically."

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants "will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories."

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its official elimination.

NNNN

/EX

## F.Y.I.

**By Ken Kwasniewski N9HQ**

One of the club's new repeaters has been installed on 145.39 - 103.5. This is one of the Yaesu System Fusion production machines that the club now has. It is replacing the beta machine that has been hosted at Mark Potter's house. It is set in the Auto Mode Selection so, analog and digital are enabled. Please use this machine as an alternative to the club's .31 machine. Thanks to Rich, George and Mark.



## **QST REVIEW** **By Jim Ward, W9DHX**

### **PODUNK HOLLOW RADIO CLUB FIELD DAY PREPARATION GRACES COVER OF CURRENT ISSUE**

An old-fashioned blackboard and some cartoon people from 64 years ago fill the QST cover this month, reminding us that it is Field Day time and the 100th Anniversary of QST magazine. Podunk Hollow was the invention of Gil Gilderson, W1CJD (SK) long-time QST contributor.

### **ARE YOU USING THE CORRECT PHONETICS? CHECK IT OUT!**

The development of our current phonetic alphabet has a long history, and Hiroki Kato, AH6CY, tells it on pages 70-72. Also he provides a chart of the three major developments periods that the ARRL went through to get where we are today. The author obtained his license in Japan in 1957 as a high school student, but eventually came to the U. S. and attained U. S. citizenship. It is a helpful article to read before Field Day, when phonetics is important for station ID.

### **VINTAGE FIELD DAYS – A FOND LOOK BACK**

QST Editor, Steve Ford, WB8IMY, takes a look back at some old photos from the archives. Since Field Day started in 1933, a lot has changed in the world and in Ham radio. Look on pages 101-102 for the vintage equipment, styles and a Podunk Hollow style cartoon.

### **DXPEDITION TO ERITREA –AN UNUSUAL COUNTRY AND ADVENTURE**

“How’s DX?” this month features a small country of six million people with a troubled history and a location on the southwest coast of the Red Sea. The two pages (94-95) tell the complexity of the nation’s political and ham radio history. Earlier this year, the DX multi-national team put it all together and made a remarkable 62,673 contacts, 20,141 being unique callers!

### **GREEN PROPAGATION NEWS -- ST.PATRICK’S DAY “AURORA”**

It happened on March 17th, and caused some unusual propagation “quirks” in history. Look on page 96 and you’ll find an explanation,

## Dear Ann Ode...



**Dear Ann Ode**

I heard you watched a wedding take place on amateur TV. The groom was a ham operator in New York and the bride was a ham operator in California.

This was a first for amateur TV. How did you like it?

Signed, Wondering

Dear Wondering,

The ceremony was fantastic, but the reception was terrible.

You can tell your ham radio problems to Ms. Ode at [ann.ode@w9ccu.org](mailto: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

# For Sale

Up for sale is my Yaesu FT-757GX station. Sale includes:

- FT-757GX, S/N 230523
- FC-757 Auto Tuner, S/N 110214
- Yaesu MDI Desk Mic
- Hand Mic
- Power Cord
- OEM Interface cord for AT
- FT-757GX Operating Manual
- FT-757 Technical Supplement
- AT Instruction Manual
- Serial Interface Data Manual
- Other miscellaneous cords I used for RTTY back in the day.

The radio and hand mic were purchased by me new at Dayton nearly 30-years ago. This was my first new HF rig and I worked many a contact and special event station with it on my 40-meter dipole and Cushcraft R5 vertical. I purchased the tuner and desk mic from another ham roughly 10-yrs ago.

The only known issue with the radio is the internal battery...it needs to be replaced and until it is no frequencies can be memorized. Beyond that everything is in good working and good cosmetic condition with the sole exception of a small scratch on the top right side of the radio. The radio was last on the air about a year ago. I acquired a different HF rig from a friend and have decided to keep it and sell the 757.

I'm asking \$400 + 50% of the actual shipping charges which will be determined by the buyer's ship to address. I usually ship UPS but buyer will have choice of shipper. I'm in west suburban Chicago so UPS, FedEx and USPS are nearby. Best way to contact me is via [N9DKO@ARRL.NET](mailto:N9DKO@ARRL.NET). This is a cash sale.

Thanks for reading.

'73

Rich Bauer  
N9DKO

# Help Wanted

Ham Radio help is needed for the American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure bike ride to be held on Sunday June 14th. This ride passes through portions of DuPage, Kane and Kendall Counties with the Start/Finish being at the Two Brothers (formerly Walter Peyton) Roundhouse in Aurora .

The Safety and Communications team still has a few openings in the following positions:

**SAG Driver:** Must be able to carry at least 2 backseat passengers and have a bike rack (or ability to temporarily attach a loaner bike rack). SAG stands for Support and Gear, and is used to transport riders who are unable to finish the ride. (3 still needed)

**Motorcycle Route Marshal:** We have a need for both Ham and non-Hams in this position. Our Motorcycle Safety Team will be scheduled to alternate between riding and road marshal duties.

**Grounds Rover:** Liaison between ADA manager and the Command Center , also to report incidents happening on the grounds. (1 needed)

**Road Marshall** (Stationary at high traffic intersections).

**Bike Mobile:** Our Bike Mobile Team Patrols nearly 40 miles of routes that are on the Illinois Prairie Path and Fox River Trail and not easily accessible by our SAG vehicles.

Public Service events are the ideal opportunity to get out and 'play radio' while helping out for a worthwhile cause. If this is something that interests you, please register here:

<http://goo.gl/forms/0s0Z0luVSv>

Please reach out to me if you have questions. As some Yahoo Groups strip email addresses from posts, my contact information is also on the link in case it doesn't show on my signature.

73,

Michael Johnson, KC9QLT  
Safety and Communications Lead  
American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure  
Email: [cellsell2005@yahoo.com](mailto:cellsell2005@yahoo.com) <mailto:cellsell2005@yahoo.com>

Cell: 224-500-0376

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If you decide to help, please add your WCRA affiliation at the bottom of the form.

Thanks!— WCRA Board

**June 2015 Pg 11**

## CQ CONTRIBUTIONS

I can't believe this is my final Hamletter.

Before I leave I must give a heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone who has contributed to the Hamletter during my time as editor. This newsletter would have been empty if it weren't for club members suggesting and submitting articles about all of the goings on in the club.

Dear Anne Ode-I will miss you wonderfully witty answers. I am glad you and I are friends. I am looking forward to reading more in future editions of the Hamletter.

And lastly my right hand man/QST reviewer/Main Hamletter photographer Jim Ward W9DHX. I don't know how I could have done the Hamletter without you. I hope you are willing to be as valuable of an asset to whoever takes over as Hamletter editor and chief.

Thank you all. I hope to see you one day at Club events and possibly Field Day.

73

KC9IJO

Mary Tuohy

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](http://www.w9ccu.org). You can also visit our Facebook page.

### 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.