



HAMLETTER

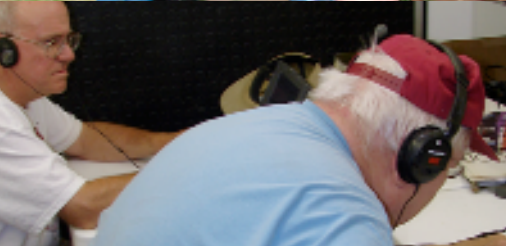
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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
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Photos courtesy of Jim, W9DHX, and George, KA3HSW.



FIELD DAY 2009



WCRA Staff

Electe d Office rs

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| President | Mark, W9UZ |
| Vice President | John, WT9Y |
| Secretary | Steve, N9OA |
| Treasurer | Ken, N9HQ |
| Custodian | Bob, W9BK |

Vol untee r Com mitte e Chairs

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Club Call Trustee | Tom, N9CBA |
| Christmas Party | Ruth Kwarta, KA9RZG |
| Club Awards | John, N9MWF |
| Elmer/Know-Code | Charlie, WB9SG |
| Field Day | Dale, NJ9E |
| Hamfest | John, WT9Y |
| Refreshments | John, WT9Y |
| Membership | Paul, KA9RVS |
| Public Service | Steve, N9OA |
| VHF/HF Awards | John, N9MWF |
| Webmaster | Tom, N9WBW |

Amateur License Staff

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Training Classes | Charlie, WB9SGD |
| Volunteer Exam. | Harry, K9HK |

WCRA Repeate r Administra tive 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 |

HAMLETTER

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| Editor | Don, N9NYX |
| Photos | Larry, KA9KDC |
| Features | Jim, W9DHX |

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From the President's Gavel

by Mark, W9UZ WCRA President

President's Column July 2009

FIELD DAY 2009. The weather cooperated for the most part, except for the thunderboomers that started in the early evening and lasted for 3 or 4 hours.

How did Field Day go? That depends on who you talk to. As I understand it, things went quite well for John, WT9Y and Ken, N9HQ. John's venerable tent with a liner over it weathered the storm. Positive comments were heard from Peter, N9HDW, operating from his Motor Home and George, KA3HSW with his satellite tracking station. Hal, AC3Q, operated both 20 CW and SSB from inside the CSU. Viktor, AJ9M, operated for many hours making the majority of CW contacts. Due to antenna interaction, it was decided to operate one station – 20 SSB from inside the CSU. Jim Ward, W9DHX, our unofficial "club photojournalist", whose articles appear elsewhere in the Hamletter, "pitched in" for a number of hours.

By 1:10 PM Sunday, Steve, N9OA already had our point count, using N3FJP software, which he is extremely happy with.

Could we have been better prepared? Of course, but that can be said every year. Surprises "pop up" every year. What can we do to better prepare? Theoretically, we should set up each station at the field day site in advance of Field Day. This will take some effort, but it can be done. Our space at Greene Valley was more limited than I thought. We had plenty of room in an east-west direction, but not in the north-south direction. Antennas needed to be spread out more. My tent already had a broken support. I thought I could get away with it. When putting it up

Saturday afternoon, the wind finally destroyed it. Hope my tent next year will be able to withstand 100 MPH winds.....

Greene Valley was a unique experience. Due to the cost, and the restricted antenna space, it is doubtful we will be going back, but operating from the highest spot in DuPage County made life interesting!

Next year, let's look for a site with more room. Suggestions would be most welcome, some of which have been the DuPage County Airport, part of the DuPage County Fairgrounds, etc.

WCRA Meeting Minutes

Steve, N9OA
WCRA
Secretary



WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS MINUTES OF THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF JUNE 5, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm by Mark Potter, W9UZ, President.

IN ATTENDANCE : Board W9UZ, WT9Y, N9OA, N9HQ, W9BK,

Membership: NV9R, AJ9M, KC9IJO, W3MDM, N9MWF,

W9DHX, K9WXV, AJ9M, N9WBW, N9NYX, KA3HSW, N9CBA, WB9SGD, KA9HEL, N9DKO, AC3Q.
Guests Roger (KC9PWL) & Terry Jean Day, KR1SH, AB9RN, KN9DAV

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMARKS Vice President (John, WT9Y) Tonight's Program is Field Day

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve as amended (W9DHX, N9NYX.) Correction on RAB report.: The DuComm tower was considered as a site and is under review. Passed.

OFFICER REPORTS: Treasurer (Ken, N9HQ) Bank Account balance Checking \$4266.48

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Field Day: (Dale, NJ9E) Discussed at program.

Public Service: (Steve, N9OA) July 4th parade is coming up. Will send an e-mail to solicit help.

Hamletter: (Don, N9NYX) Published. If you didn't receive it, contact Don (donlin@xnet.com) to get on the list. Would like to have additional articles. The article doesn't have to be amateur radio related.

RAB: (Don, N9NYX) Our latest attempt to find a new site is at Nova Communications. The current site and the Nova site were compared with computer modeling, and the eastern part of the county where it was noted that tower costs can exceed \$1000/mo for renting space for other sites. Our current repeater is old. The receiver is a concern and the transmitter is at approximately 13W. The antenna is also old. There is a new antenna in Larry's garage. The RAB will be making a request for an appropriation to purchase a power amp to help correct the situation and possibly replacing the crystal in the controller.

Website: (Tom, N9WBW) Would like info for the site. Sending out rosters. Please do not distribute the data.

Membership: (Paul, KA9RVS) There will be two new members to be voted in under new business

CSU: (John, N9MWF) The pneumatic mast will be installed and serviceable for field day. The DC buses may also be partially installed for Field Day as well. 1 battery has been obtained.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS: Motion to approve (N9WBW, AC3Q) passed.

OLD BUSINESS: JOTA 2009 (Steve, N9OA / John, WT9Y) No Report

By-Laws Committee: (Tom, N9WBW) In progress

The generator provided reliable power, having to be refueled only once. It would be nice to have a longer cable so we can isolate the noise from the CSU.

Hal, AC3Q brought the CSU to the party with his reliable, powerful pick-up truck and Mark, W9UZ brought it home.

Our Club is accumulating more “stuff”. We may have to give “second thoughts” to an additional storage area.

NEW BUSINESS: New Member Applications (Paul, KA9RVS) KR1SH, KN9DAV (N9WBW,W9DHX)
Passed

ANCHORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS FROM MEMBERSHIP/GUESTS

(N9MWF) Sat. 6/7 Special Session of HF Net of IL ARES to test communications w/ multiple state assets. The net will be held at 1030 CDT on 3905 kHz (75M) They will then QSY to an alternate frequency to connect ITECS units for the state EMA.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn (AC3Q, W9DHX) passed. Adjourned at 9:08PM

MEETING DATES FOR 2009

The following are the General Membership meeting dates for this calendar year.

July 10 ** Special night: Second Friday (Due to Independence Day weekend)**

August - No meeting

September 4

October 2

November 6

December - No meeting.

Mark your calendars.

QST REVIEW/July '09—“Take to the Water”

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

THIS MONTH'S COVER STORY— “HOW TO ENJOY HAM RADIO WHILE BOATING”

That's W1ZR at the helm of his sloop, with one hand on the ship's wheel and the other holding a microphone. You, too, can enjoy your hobby while cruising along, and page 51 begins three pages of good ideas. Surprisingly, he tells you to start with a marine VHF transceiver, before you mount your ham equipment aboard. Check this article before you shove off from the dock!

DAYTON REVISITED –A NATIONAL CONVENTION AND SUPER HAM FEST

All you want to know about what happened at this three-ring circus of hamdom is covered in four well illustrated pages—new equipment, celebrities, build-it-on-the-spot kits and more. Not everyone can attend this extravaganza, but you can read about it on pages 58 to 61.

THINKING SMALL IN THE RV DEPT—A TEARDROP TRAILER QTH

If you have a small car and are worried about a heavy vehicle to tow—you'll love Ron Parks, WB5DYG's plan for a mini-sized camper set up for radio adventures. On page 63 he shows how he has fixed up this stock “Teardrop” trailer and modified it to provide a rolling ham shack. It is modest in size, but Ron does a fancy outfitting job.

TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE SPONSORS A HAM RADIO “ENHANCEMENT” BILL

Inspired by the performance by ham radio emergency workers in her home district of Houston assisting relief efforts, Sheila Jackson(D) is the sponsor of a new bill –HR2160. If passed it would greatly smooth the way for easier performance during emergencies for hams. It is described on page 66. ARRL Chief Executive, David Sumner, went all the way to Washington to pay her a visit and also thank her for the work in supporting ham radio emergency efforts.

NEED A J-POLE REPLACEMENT? TRY THIS “HOME BREW” COAXIAL DIPOLE

An unobtrusive outside antenna is always difficult to design, but John E. Portune, W6NBC, has come up with an antenna that gives good performance and has a slim profile. He does it with hand tools and ordinary hardware store items, such as lamp tubing nuts, copper pipe and pipe caps. It can be built for 146, 220, or 440 MHz. The article is on page 33.

PRODUCT REVIEW—THE YAESU VX-8R HANDHELD TRANSCEIVER

Most of us will “made do” with older model handhelds, like an ICOM O2-AT “brick”, but if you want to catch up on modern design, check out page 41 to 44 with a rundown on the “latest” from Yaesu. It is submersible—and can be used outdoors under any conditions! Price \$385.

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.

High on a Windy Field Day—W9CCU-4A-IL

The Official Site of 2009 Field Day for WCRA was “Green Valley Forest Preserve Scenic Overlook” and our Security was intact with professional DuPage County Forest Preserve Police.

Chairmen Dale and Co-Chairman Steve and all the team captains and workers are to be congratulated on straying from the comfort of a municipal park and trying out a mountain—to quote Dale: “It is different!”

At nearly 200 feet above the Forest Preserve terrain, you are looking out at a lot of treetops and suburban rooftops. Earlier exploratory trips told the antenna planners to count on developing their own masts and not counting on trees—there were no trees. Rising to the challenge, the Saturday morning set went smoothly and all the aluminum and wire was in place at 1 p.m. and the QSOs started to roll in.

There were limitations on antenna types this year. The garbage under the blacktop and green turf and the “mountain top” is a methane generator, held in check by a heavy duty plastic membrane. So no long stakes were permitted to ground or guy antennas.

Normal “long wires” suspended from tree to tree did not happen this year. Instead portable masts were used to hold each end of a 40 meter dipole, with one 40 foot pushup mast in the center. Also, vertical antennas were very popular.

Also popular were the Forest Preserve Rangers, whose good nature permitted smooth replacement personnel both entry and exit to the very secure facility. They were, of course, a little fearful of the microphone, but with proper coaching and supervision were able to chalk up a couple of Qsos.

The Support Trailer and accompanying generator got a good workout – no power outages and plenty of space to work.

As for tents, that was another issue. Ken, N9HQ, working in the 80-15 phone tent had to be rescued from his fabric prison when Sunday morning winds took over. No problem in the score, however; the QSO total kept adding up.

George,KA3HSW, working by bounce off of “birds” passing over, had a canopy that wouldn’t give into the winds, with the air flowing through underneath.

Taking advantage of the updraft winds on the Overlook’s slopes were Remote Control Glider enthusiasts. These lightweight gliders with 7” wingspans provided a spectator diversion. “Look, Ma, no motors!” No conflict of frequency, as they were operating on 2.4 gigabytes.

All in all, the “Scenic Overlook” Field Day experience gave all the participants a new look at their home County—in fact at all Chicagoland. It was a great place from which to reach out with that great call – “Whiskey Niner Charlie Charlie Uniform”.

THANKS TO FIELD DAY CAPTAINS, WORKERS ETC.

The 2009 Field Day is over, but appreciation to the members and others who helped in the effort are deserved—so here is a big “Thank You” from The Field Day Co-Chairs!

Forty Phone – Co-Captains, Peter, N9HDW, and John, WT9Y

Workers: Victor Carter, KB9WXV, Bob Krueger, W9BK, Tom Salyers, N9QGV, Jack Feldman, KA9HEL, Bob Elz, N9IRY, and Jim Ward, W9DHX

Eighty and Fifteen Phone – Captain Ken, N9HQ

Worker – Bill, Former Club member from Oswego and ex Chicago FireFighter.

Satellite Station – Captain George, KA3HSW

Twenty Phone and CW – Captains Dale, NJ9E and Steve, N90A

Workers: Hal, AC3Q; Viktor, AJ9M, Mark, W9UZ

SetUp Workers and Visitors: Greg Schmidt and Pat Byrne.



JULY 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.
- 10th: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 145.31. The program for Friday night's meeting will be a video on HF Digital Voice for Amateur Radio. The digital voice modes covered will be AOR, WinDRM, DRMDV and FDMDV.
- 20th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for August.
- 23rd: 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.

Remember the Club net on 2M is held every Sunday evening at 8 PM local on 145.31 (-)

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting July 10th, 2009, 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