



HAMGAB

Published Since 1936

May 2010

A Look Back in History

ESTABLISHED IN 1933
HAMFESTERS
Celebrating 75 years of Service to Chicagoland's Amateurs
Come Visit on the World Wide Web at: www.hamfesters.org



Can you guess what this is a picture of?

May's Program

Tech Night - May 7th.

Al N9ZD will show a video presentation on three important individuals that shaped early communications and broadcasting. CW - AM - FM ??? Which emissions were better then and now? Get informed and attend the Hamfesters Radio Club meeting to find out.

Future Programs

I will bring a list of topics to the next meeting for future programs that have been suggested by various members. Each member will be given a ballot to vote for the programs they would find most interesting or beneficial.

The Dekalb Hamfest Sunday May 2, 2010

Location: Sandwich Fairgrounds
Sandwich, IL 60548

Web site: <http://www.kish-club.org>

Sponsor: Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Talk-In: 146.730 minus (PL 100) or
146.490 simplex

Public Contact: Bob Yurs, W9ICU
1107 Commercial Street Sycamore, IL
60178 Phone: 815-895-3219

Email: w9icu@arrl.net

Starved Rock Radio Club (W9MKS) Hamfest Sunday, June 6, 2010

Location: Bureau County
Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL 61356

Web site: <http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm>

Sponsor: Starved Rock Radio Club
(W9MKS)

Talk-In: 146.955 -600 (PL 103.5)

Public Contact: Matthew Weaver ,
KB9VZH

319 Desoto Street Ottawa, IL 61350

Phone: 815-313-5924

Email: kb9vzh@mchsi.com

Hamfesters Meetings are held on the 1st Friday of every month at the Crestwood Civic Center, 14025 Kostner in Crestwood, IL. at 7:30 PM. Next meeting will be on the second Friday May 7th, 2010.

VE TESTING every 2nd Saturday of the Month at Oak Forest High School, 151st & Central AVE in Oak Forest. Testing begins at 9:00 AM. Exam fee is \$15.00. Next test: Saturday May 8th, 2010.



W9AA



HAMFESTERS Heard Around the World

OFFICERS

President	Bob N9JYX(708) 496-1375
Vice Pres.	Don KC9EQQ(773) 426-1936
Secretary	Pat KC9LYE(708) 424-2468
Treasurer	Ed WA9EOL(708) 687-3352
Sergeant At Arms	Rich N9UNQ(773) 445-1985
Trustee	Bruno K9QKB(708) 430-2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Al N9ZD	(708) 535-2981
Jim KB9CYL	(708) 301-1863
John WB9JTS	(708) 430-0286
Kerry AA9SB	(708) 335-4574
Larry KG9L	(773) 768-0960
Mike W9MCS	(708) 423-9049

COMMITTEES

Awards	Matt KC9JXC(708) 226-1599
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Field Day	Jim KB9CYL(708) 301-1863
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Hamgab Editor	Gregg AB9MZ(708) 267-6664
Historian	Jim KB9CYL(708) 301-1863
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Membership	Brian W9HLQ(708) 532-5833
Packet	Bruno K9QKB(708) 430-2024
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Publicity	Kerry AA9SB(708) 335-4574
Raffles	Bob KB9YXH(708) 429-4511
Refreshments	Don KC9EQQ(773) 426-1936
SMART	Bob K9MUY(708) 687-1121
SMART	Al N9ZD(708) 535-2981
VE Testing	Tim AA9BV(708) 687-5057
Webmaster	Brian W9HLQ(708) 532-5833

Behind the Gavel

By Bob Koran N9JYX — President



Hello Again Everyone, It's the middle of April and the weather is finally starting to get warm, and you know what that means. Antenna time. That's right it's antenna maintenance time again. Time to start that spring tune up of your stations antenna systems. That means it's time to talk SAFETY.

Remember, when you start to climb up or on those towers, roofs, and ladders to be sure to tie yourself off to something solid. You hear every year about some goof who goes up on a ladder, tower, or roof without some kind of safety belt or harness. Doesn't tie off and ends up on the ground with a whole lot of hurt.

It's also a really good idea to use the buddy system and have someone there with you. A friend, relative, or better yet, another ham who knows the drill. We don't need to lose a friend or loved one to STUPIDITY.

Towers can be the worst danger. Before going up make sure the base is solid, that your safety belt is in good shape, and you have an extra lanyard to tie off with. Remember a slip at 30 or more feet can be and is often fatal. It's not the fall, but that sudden stop that does the damage. Other than the safety issue not much is going on.

Joe, KA9KBU now has all of his antennas back up and running. I helped him put them back up after about three years, when a micro burst hit our neighborhood here in Hickory Hills. He now has his tri-band HF along with 146 and 220 beams, along with his dual band vertical. Which now puts his dual band vertical up an additional 12 feet. Good luck Joe with all those antennas. The rest of this month and the month of May are going to be quiet. Not much going on locally. Well that's about it for this month see you all at the next meeting.

(Continued on Page 7.)

Hamfesters Board Meeting

March 22nd, 2010

by Patti KC9LYE - Secretary



Officers: Bob N9JYX, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Jim KB9CYL, Joe KA9KBU, John WB9JTS, Carey AA9SB

Meeting began at: 7:45 PM, suspended quorum, approved by Jim KB9CYL, 2nd by John WB9JTS.

Bob N9JYX, The Hamgab will no longer be password protected. Access to the club's roster, still requires a password.

KC9LYE will send emails to remind officers & board members of future board meetings.

Health & Welfare: Carey AA9SB, will have cataract surgery on March 30th. Speedy recovery Carey!

Minutes: February board meeting minutes approved by Jim KB9CYL, 2nd by Ed WA9EOL.

Treasurer's Report: Ed WA9EOL, the CD at State Farm will be renewed for 28 months. Report approved by John WB9JTS, 2nd by Jim KB9CYL.

Publicity & Hamfest: Carey AA9SB, the attendance at our March meeting was 59 people. The topic was Weather Spotting. Publicity for the meeting was emailed to the local media. Thanks, Carey! At the April 2 club meeting members will be reminded to take Hamfest tickets & fliers. The Hamfest will be on Aug. 8, 2010.

Field Day: Jim KB9CYL, The Hamfesters FD arrangements June 26 & 27 continue.

New Business: Bob N9JYX, There will be no guest speaker, or entertainment at our July 2nd, and Christmas party celebrations. Members have said that they prefer fellowship.

Adjournment: 8:25 PM approved by John WB9JTS, 2nd by Jim KB9CYL.

Hamfesters Club Meeting

April 2nd, 2010

73' Patti KC9LYE

Officers: Bob N9JYX, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE.

Meeting began at: 7:45PM, we had 4 visitors; Deb Johnson KC9DJI, Mike Johnson, & Wally Johnson, Dale N9JH, 28 club members attended.

Health & Welfare: Bob W9LNU, continues to recover from a fractured leg. Best Wishes to Bob W9LNU, and Dot N9ALC.

Carey AA9SB, had cataract surgery on March 30th, and he's here tonight. Well Done, Carey.

The program tonight "Are You Ready" presented by Gregg AB9MZ, Gregg, nice job!

The May program will be the "Empire on the Air" video presented by Al N9ZD.

New Business: by Bob N9JYX, issues of Hamgab can be accessed at Hamfesters.org without a password.

The July 2, Celebration, next month there will be sign up sheets. On these sheets: we need a head count for food and an idea of who will offer to bring side dishes or deserts., This will be our 2nd Annual July Salute to America. It was really fun, hope you can come..

Our Christmas Party will be Dec. 3rd, at Papa Joe's in Orland Park.

Minutes: March club minutes approved by Rich N9UNQ, 2nd by John WB9JTS.

Treasurer's Report: by Ed WA9EOL, approved by Gregg AB9MZ, 2nd by Brian W9HLQ.

Publicity & Hamfest: by Carey AA9SB, local media was emailed concerning tonight's meeting. Please give newspaper copies to Carey AA9SB. A vendors list for our Hamfest on Aug. 8, 2010 is in the works. Please get Hamfest tickets and fliers from Jim KB9CYL.

Field Day: Jim KB9CYL, we need someone to work a 20 meters station.

Education: Gregg AB9MZ, Technician license classes will begin in Sept. 2010.

More New Business: John WB9JTS, & Mike W9MCS, are selling bags of onions to benefit Shriner's Hosp. for Children in Chicago. This sale continues during April.

Rich N9UNQ, next month will have a donation sign up sheet for an epilepsy walk-a-thon. Ham's caring for the community, thank you.

Adjournment: 10:00PM, approved by Gregg AB9MZ, 2nd by Rich N9UNQ.

Door Prize Winners: Mike WA9ZPM, Nora KC9MLV, John Sansone Jr., Don K9KNE.

Raffle Prize Winners: Bob N9JYX, John AB9SI, Bob N9KWG

Happy Easter, KC9LYE



HAMFESTERS VE TESTING

By Tim Pechtold AA9BV
VE Team Chairmen

No report filed again this month.

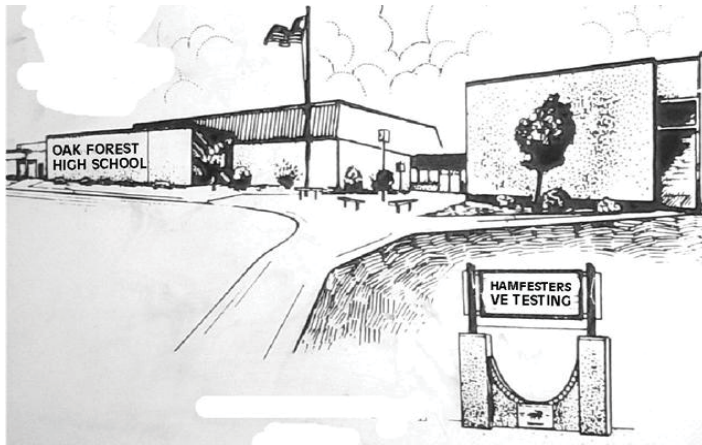
If you're planning on taking an Amateur Radio examination, please remember that

Hamfesters offers VE Test session every month on the 2nd Saturday at the Oak Forest High School located at 151st & Central ave in Oak Forest, IL. We begin testing at 9:00 AM but ask for candidates to get there about 10 -- 15 minutes early. Come in through the main entrance and then go to your right. We are usually located in one of the first classrooms that you'll come to. Our next test session will be held on Saturday May 8th, 2010.

Please remember to bring the following items with you to the session: your picture ID, the original and a copy of your Amateur Radio license (if licensed), a pen, pencil, and calculator if you would like to use one. And it's very important to also have your Social Security number, or if you are licensed and have been issued an FRN (Federal Registration Number), please use that in place of your SSN because with out either your SSN or FRN, the FCC will not process your application.

If you have any questions regarding our test session or about upgrading, please contact me at: (708) 687-5057 or via e mail at: aa9bv@amsat.org. The test fee is \$15.00 (cash only -- no credit cards or checks).

73 and good luck! Tim AA9BV



CQ Field Day

by Jim Riley KB9CYL

There's not much to say about Field Day this month. We still are looking for someone to set up a twenty-meter station in the absence of Ray NW9S. All you need is an antenna. The club will provide power, a rig, a mast and a computer for logging.

We're still looking for nominations for the GOTA station call. So far the only nominee is Ed WB9STB. The only considerations for nominating someone are that it must be a member who is actively involved in Field Day and it has to be a call we haven't used before. The 2010 GOTA call will be decided at the June meeting.

For the record, Field Day is Saturday 26 June at 1300 local through Sunday 27 June at 1300. Setup begins at 0800 in the field at 110th and 86th Ave. on the east side of Moraine Valley Community College.

Hamfest Ticket Sales

by Jim Riley KB9CYL

We sold exactly one Hamfest ticket at the April meeting. That means there are now only \$48 in the Hamfest coffer. So we still have to come up with \$2952 to cover the cost of the fairgrounds. That's a long way to go over the next three months--especially since there are only 72 tickets still out in circulation. Last year we had 300 out at this time. The thing that really has me concerned is that not one person has taken tickets to sell since February.

What I'm saying here is that we need YOU to see me at the meeting, grab some tickets and start selling. This is our big money-raising event and we need everyone selling tickets.

73' Jim KB9CYL

Swap N' Shop

If you want any advertisement in the news letter for Swap N' Shop please send them to me each month. I have no way to know if an item has sold or not, so I will only run an advertisement once. If you want it to appear in more than one Hamgab issue, please resend it each month you wish it to appear.

Hamfest Update

By Kerry AB9SB

If you're going to an upcoming hamfest, pick up some of our flyers, and drop them off at their club table and pass them out. And get your tickets either from our hamfest ticket coordinator, Jim, KB9CYL, or from the various ticket sellers -- and sell, sell, sell! Let's get a lively ticket seller competition going, again this year.

Work is proceeding on contacting the vendors and the ARRL, and, for this year's hamfest, sending flyers out to the hamfest clubs. I'll have more details, later. Thanks.

73' Kerry, AA9SB, Hamfest chairperson,

kw_nelson@earthlink.net

Hamfesters Birthdays for May 2010

By Dot N9ALC

The following Hamfesters members will celebrate their birthdays May 2010. Make sure you take the time wish them a happy birthday on the air or at the next meeting or event.

K9MS Matt, AK9Y Bob, AA9M Matt, W9HLQ Brian, KC9EQQ Don, KB9PMW Evencio, W9WUR Lloyd, AB9MZ Gregg

73' Dot N9ALC'

Chicago FM Club 220 Preservation Net

Dig out your 220 radios and dust them off. In early December 2009 CFMC created a "220 Preservation Net." The goal was to protect our access to the remaining portions of the 1.25M Amateur Radio band. The net is held on the CFMC north 220 machine on 224.100. The machine is carrier access. No PL is required. The net will run each Saturday evening at 20:00 hours sharp (8:00 PM).

Please spread the word. This is the first and only 220 net in this area ever. I look forward to seeing you on the net, each Saturday.

73' Kelvin-W9BBQ

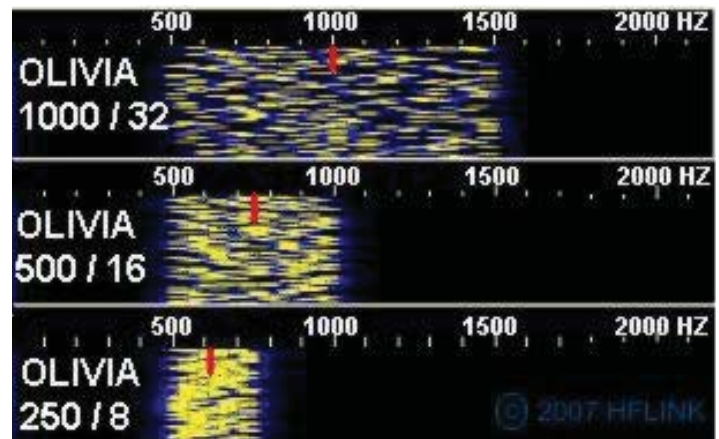
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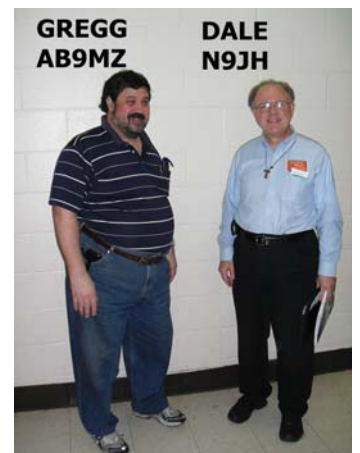
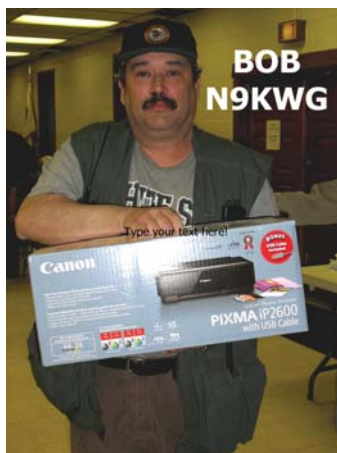
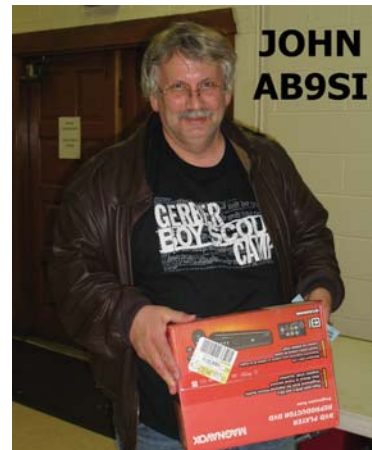
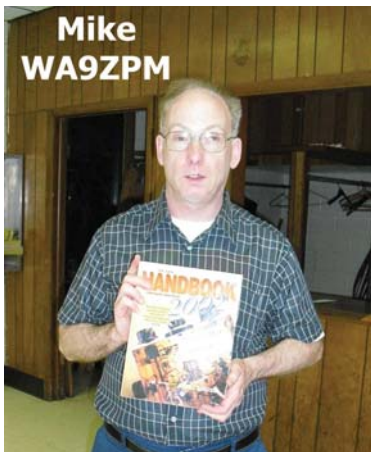
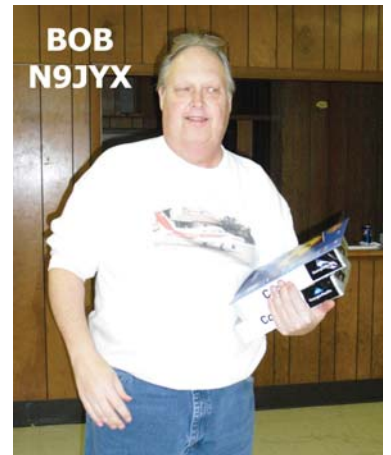
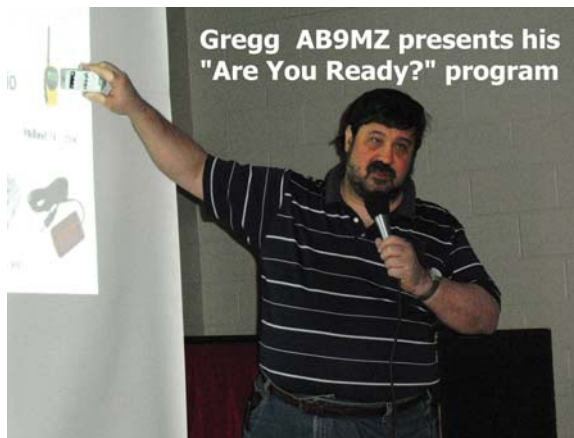
By Tom KC9JZF

Want to work the world using only a few watts? It can be done using a digital mode called Olivia. Olivia uses your sound card and computer and works well with a rig set up for PSK31. This protocol seems to cut through the QRN better than anything else I have tried. Olivia is an MFSK radio teletype mode and has several variations. It was developed in 2003 by Pawel Jalocho, SP9VRC as a way to get a signal through when conditions are rough. Olivia QSO's can be reliably had when the signal is buried in the noise floor. An article in the December 2008 QST refers to it as the "magic mode". The same article tells of QSO's when the signal cannot even be heard!

Olivia modes are specified using the bandwidth and the number of audio tones. A popular one is Olivia 500/16. That is a bandwidth of 500Hz and 16 different tones. 500/16 can get you a throughput of around 20 wpm. Other popular combinations include 250/8, 500/8, 500/16, and 1000/32. Olivia software is free and can be found in the amazing DM780 (part of Ham Radio Deluxe) and MultiPSK as well as several other free offerings on the Internet.

Although Olivia is slower than some of the other digital modes, I enjoy it because it is so reliable and also because I am not a fast typist. I also find that it is pleasant to listen to. Since the signal can be decoded without being able to hear it or see it on your waterfall display, most users of this mode practice voluntary channelization. This allows the operator to tune to where Olivia is expected rather than sending CQ on a random frequency in the digital area of the band. If you would like to learn more about Olivia, including common frequencies, visit <http://hflink.com/olivia/#freqs>.





Photographs by
Don KC9EQQ

Meeting Pictures and prize Winners



The Final Word

73' Gregg AB9MZ

Upcoming Classes

Our next Technician class will start on Thursday September 16th, 2010. We are trying to decide if we will run a General or an Extra class in the Winter. The

decision will be driven by interest level.

73' Gregg AB9MZ

Fox Hunting at Field Day

I am planning to have the Fox box at Field day and plan to run a Fox Hunt Saturday afternoon around 15:00 CST. The goal will be to allow our guests to get exposed to yet more facet of our great hobby. Any one present at Field Day is welcome to participate. To participate please bring an HT. I will have a few direction finding antennas. and other aids. Since it is nice weather consider building a DF antenna to bring to field day.

Hamfesters Monthly Raffle

By Bob Richter KB9YXH

We try to do the best we can for prizes for the monthly Hamfest meetings. We however have a limited budget we can work from. We would encourage all members to contribute an item for the monthly raffle. It might be something that would be useful to others, but is no longer of use to you. It could also simply be something you just choose to donate. We try to get as broad a variety of prizes as we can. With your donations we can have even more variety and nicer prizes for our monthly raffles. If you can help we would greatly appreciate it. This is one other small source of income for the club. Your prize doesn't have to be electronic in nature, it can be anything even if it doesn't deal with ham radio. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of making a prize donation and hope to hear from you very soon. Feel free to contact me by email at kb9yxh@yahoo.com or call me at (708) 429-4511.

73' Bob Richter KB9YXH Raffle Chairman

Program / Event Calendar

By Don KC9EQQ & Gregg AB9MZ

June 4th: Jim KB9CYL will finalize any details for field day and present our annual field day round up.

July 2nd: Second annual 4th of July celebration. Great food, fellowship, music, and more.

August 6th: * Hamfest preparation and a short technology presentation.

September 3rd: * Presentation on antenna zoning and regulations. We will try to get someone from our section management or other appropriate legal resource.

October 1st: * Getting the most out of contests. I would like to ask our members that are heavy contesters to put together a program for the newcomers to the hobby to get them started in contesting.

November 5th: * Digital mode update. What is new in digital modes. Demonstration of the more popular digital modes.

December 3rd: Annual Hamfesters Holiday Party

What topics would you like to see programs presented on. What topics might you be willing to present to the club. Every one of us makes this club as great as it is individually and collectively. This isn't his club or her club it is your club. Let Don or I know at a meeting, by phone, or email.

73' Don KC9EQQ & Gregg AB9MZ

(Behind the Gavel Continued from Page 2.)

But then we come to June, and FIELD DAY. so everyone start making your plans to come on out to our field day site at 111th St and 86th Ave. Setup will begin around 9:00 am. Then we begin operating about noon until noon the next day. Also remember we eat good at this event. Mike W9MCS will be providing our lunch and Jim KB9CYL's xyl Judy will be bringing out her WORLD FAMOUS BEEF sandwiches at dinner time on saturday. Then Sunday morning Ed WA9EOL will be our chef for breakfast. So plan to attend, as a GREAT TIME will be had by ALL.

73' Bob N9JYX

Hamfesters Radio Club

Meetings and VE Testing

Club Meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at the Crestwood Civic Center, 14025 Kostner Ave. in Crestwood, IL. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Bob N9JYX President

Board Meetings: 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month at the Oremus Center, 7902 Oketo, Bridgeview, IL

VE TESTING: Every 2nd Saturday at the Oak Forest High School, 151st & Central Ave. Oak Forest, IL. Testing begins at 9:00 AM but we ask that you arrive 10 minutes early. Exam fee is now \$15.00. Tim AA9BV VE Team Chairman

Special Activities

Hamfesters BIG Peotone Hamfest: Our 74th annual Hamfest coming August 2010 – Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL. Kerry AA9SB Hamfest Chairman

FIELD DAY: Join the W9AA crew for one of the best Field Days ever on June 26th & 27th 2010 at Moraine Valley College, 111th & 86th Ave. Jim KB9CYL Field Day Chairman

WAHM: Worked All Hamfester Members—work 10 current members for a beautiful award certificate. Matt KC9JXC Awards

NETS / Contact Info

10 METER NET: Every Sunday Evening at 8:00 PM on 28.410. Bob W9TOE is Net Control

2 METER NET: Every Monday Evening at 9:00 PM on 146.430. Joe KA9KBU is Net Control

W9AA Mailbox: 145.650
24 hours a day. Bruno K9QKB is Sysop.
ILOAK: Node on 145.650

WEB SITE: www.hamfesters.org
Brian W9HLQ is Webmaster

Club's address:
Hamfesters Radio Club
P.O. BOX 102 BEDFORD PARK, IL 60499 Pat
KC9LYE Secretary

Deadline for submitting material to HAMGAB is the fifteenth of the month.



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