



# Ham Gab

Next meeting: February 3

February 2012

PO Box 102  
Bedford Park, IL  
60499-0102  
[www.hamfesters.org](http://www.hamfesters.org)

## Special Interest Articles

CQ Field Day pg. 4

The first car radio pg. 7

## February Birthdays

Robert W9AVB  
John KA9BUM  
Ben KC9CXT  
James KA9GUC  
Joseph KA9KBU  
Nick KB9LC  
Jerry AB9QD  
Ray NW9S  
Robert W9TOE  
Joseph KB9VRL  
Russell W9WHO  
Harling KC9KUY

Note: The White Elephant sale has been moved to the March meeting on Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. It's time for spring cleaning so bring in all of those goodies to sell.



**The White Elephant Sale has been moved to March.**

As those of you who attended the last meeting already know, there is a possibility of construction at the Crestwood Community Center. While nothing is imminent, it is possible we may have to move a few of the meetings. Don KC9EQQ had asked that if anyone knows of a well located and inexpensive potential meeting site, please let him know. You can check for updates on the Hamfesters web site or through Facebook and twitter. Also, we're looking for good program ideas for future meetings. They don't have to be radio related. Contact Don with your ideas.

Thanks again to Brian W9HLQ for last month's video presentation. It was fascinating to learn about what is out there. Don't miss next month's meeting. It will be a chance to learn about the famous Radio collector Dr. Ralph Muchow.

REMEMBER YOUR FIRST?

I DO!

## THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ

FEBRUARY 2012

Well, now that I got your attention.....Let me tell you about my first- the first Radio personality and two others that got my attention and made me a lifelong fan of scanning the AM dial for those near and far signals.

The first person who impacted me (and still does to this day), would be Ken Alexander who was the on-air afternoon drive person on the old WAIT-AM 820 back in the 60's and 70's. For those of you who might recall, WAIT was known for its fine selection of music by the likes of Peggy Lee, Sinatra, Frank Chaksfield, Andy Williams, Henry Mancini and the like. You know- GOOD MUSIC!!



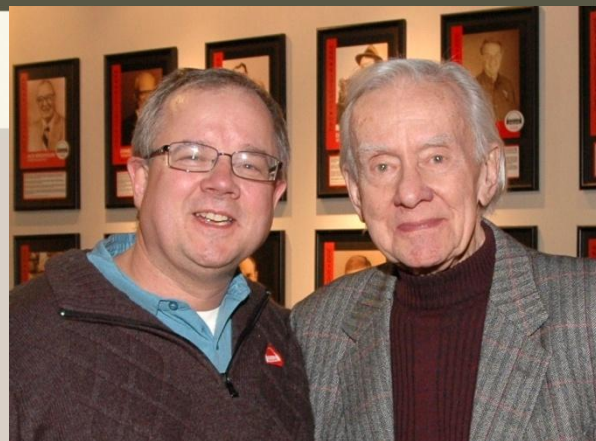
(Above L-R: Myself, Ken and Nora)

Of course nowadays you can find Ken on WDCB FM on the program he co hosts with Steve Darnall, known as "Those Were the Days" on Saturdays, 1pm-5pm.

Ken's voice has always appealed to me as one of calm demeanor a certain flair for making one comfortable listening to him for hours as he delivers his part of the show so smoothly. It's wonderful to know that years later He, Nora and I can call each other friends, as Nora and I are very close to the Those Were the Days program and its staff.

Personality Number two would be someone who again I have listened to for at least 40 years, up till his retirement a few years ago. A phenomenal interviewer, with a HUGE knowledge of all things Stage, Screen, Radio, current topics and gifted with sensible intelligence, that person would be Roy Leonard, well-known in Chicago Radio and television. Nora and I were honored to photograph The Salute To Roy Leonard event held in December at the Museum of Broadcast Communications in Chicago. We have met Roy in the past, but this was special as he was honored by peer and listener alike.

Roy, as many of you, was a fixture on WGN AM 720 in a variety of shifts over the years, interviewing well known Hollywood stars and politicians alike with such a casual conversational approach, that you were drawn into those conversations as if you were in that studio with them.



Above: Roy Leonard and Myself

Lastly, I bring to you a man I have listened to since I was 13 years of age and again, Nora and I count him and his wife as two of our dearest friends. And this person was Ken's sidekick for nearly 40 years on Those Were The Days until his recent retirement. That person would be Chuck Schaden.

The Year 1971. Tuning the dial on my 5 band Allied Radio Shack radio, I came across the sound of an old Jack Benny Show.



Above L-R: Myself, Ken and Chuck

Well that show came from Those Were the Days, a show I have enjoyed for over 40 years, presented by one of the true gentleman in the Radio Industry. A friend we treasure, because he like Ken and Roy treasure Radio itself. Chuck and his program took me places as a kid that I still go to when I need a break from this crazy world we live in. Forever am I in his debt for that. And forever in debt shall I be to Ken and Roy too, as they introduced me to a wonderful thing called-**RADIO!** Whether it's AM, HAM or internet radio, radio in general has had a profound impact on my life and I am blessed for it. It kept me informed, entertained and most of all it has allowed me to meet some incredible people over the years, incredible people like you- my fellow Ham Operators! How has Radio affected you?

Questions, comments etc., for Don? Please email him at: [dpointer65@aol.com](mailto:dpointer65@aol.com) or call him between the hours of 10am to 8pm at: 773-426-1936.

## General meeting minutes – Patti, KC9LYE

Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club Meeting  
Jan. 6, 2012.

Roll Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL,  
Patti KC9LYE.

Tonight's meeting began at 7:35 PM, 55  
members, our visitors were; Rich KC9SKC, &  
Wally KC9SYX. Returning member Pat  
KB9KRT, & new member Mike.

President's Report; By Don KC9EQQ.  
Congratulations to Bob Richter KB9YXH, for  
receiving the Hamfester of the Year Award  
for 2011. Congratulations to Paul Espinosa  
WD9GEH for achieving a Hamfesters  
Honorary Membership. Thank You Paul &  
Bob for helping to make Hamfesters a great  
club. The Crestwood Community Center is  
being remodeled in 2012. This should not  
affect our club meetings. Please, if anyone  
has any suggestions about alternative  
locations contact the officers or board  
members.

Club Minutes: The minutes for Nov. 4, 2011  
club meeting approved by Pat KB9KRT, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
by Bob N9JYX.

Treasurer's Report: By Ed WA9EOL,  
approved by Bob N9JYX, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob KB9YXH.  
Ed reminds members, please pay their club  
dues.

Publicity & Hamfest: By Kerry AA9SB,  
publicity for tonight's meeting was sent.

The hamfest committee will  
be meeting soon.

Field Day: by Jim KB9CYL, FD  
will be June 23-24 2012.

Program: Tonight's program  
DVD's "The Munsters"  
(Herman has a ham license), and another  
DVD called "The Mystery of Radio". Thanks  
Brian W9HLQ. Feb. program will be DVD's.  
The Annual White Elephant Sale is on  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Hamgab: By Eric KC9OOM, Al N9ZD is no  
longer a member of the board, this will be  
noted on the website & in the Hamgab.  
Thank you for serving AL. Thanks everyone  
for submitting early in Dec. before  
Christmas. If anyone has problems with  
Hamgab, or the website contact; Eric  
KC9OOM, Steve KC9OOL, or Brian W9HLQ.

New Business: Matt N9JXR is here with us  
tonight after a long absence. Matt  
commutes from Chicago to Wisconsin to  
take care of his Mom. Welcome Matt.

Adjournment: 9:44 PM approved by Bob  
N9JYX, 2<sup>nd</sup> by James KC9SOG.

Door Prize Winners; Matt KC9JXC, Lenny  
KB9OUQ

Raffle Prize Winners; John AB9SI, Pat  
KB9KRT.



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## Field Day

de Jim Riley KB9CYL

It's that time of year again. Once the snow starts to fly, it's time to think about Field Day. The dates are Saturday and Sunday June 23 and 24. The place is Altman Park in Worth. That's approximately 115<sup>th</sup> and Beloit, or a quarter mile west of Harlem on 115<sup>th</sup> St. Clear your calendar for those two days and come out to join your FD crew for a good time. There will be more particulars as we get closer.

Even in the dead of winter there is FD activity. Your chairman is coordinating everything with the good folks in the Friendly Village. Hereafter they'll be referred to as The Village People. Joe KA9KBU is working on a solution to the problems that plagued the trailer station antenna last year. Kurt WB9FMC, I'm sure, is working on some kind of antenna concoction for the 20-meter station. You never know what it's going to look like or how it's going to work but it's always interesting. Brian W9HLQ and his team always have something new at the GOTA station. So it's worth a trip to Worth to see what this year's Field Day crew has to offer.

I'm working on this year's Field Day program for the June meeting. If you have any digital pictures from last year and would like them included in the program and/or FD archives, please get them to me by the February meeting.

## Health and Welfare

It has come to our attention that Nora's mom and Don's father are both in the hospital. Apparently, they are in two separate hospitals and are both in the ICU. Let's wish them a speedy recovery and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

## Correction

In the last Hamgab, we erroneously listed Al N9ZD as one of the board members. We're sorry for the error and we all appreciate all of Al's service to Hamfesters.

**Hamfesters VE Testing:  
By Al Bukowski N9ZD**

Hamfesters Radio club VE's administered FCC Amateur Radio exams January 14, 2012 at the Oak Forest City Hall 15440 S. Central Ave. Oak Forest, ILL 60452. We had one candidate who passed the Extra exam. Congratulations to the candidate. VE's who helped grading the exams were: Tim AA9BV, James KA2DRQ, Gene KB9RNM, Bob N9JYX and myself N9ZD.

If you or a friend are planning on taking an Amateur Radio examination, please remember that Hamfesters conducts FCC authorized VE (volunteer examiner) tests for Technician, General, and Extra class licenses every month on the 2nd Saturday at Oak Forest City Hall 15440 S. Central Ave. Oak Forest, IL 60452. Oak Forest City Hall Doors open at 9:00 AM. We begin testing at 9:15 AM. Come in through the main entrance and then go to the left to the Chamber Room. We do ask that you park your car in the main parking lot between the Fire Department and the Police Department and not directly in front of the Main doors to City Hall.

Our next test session will be held on Saturday February 12, 2012.

Very important: Please remember to bring the following items with you to any session: The appropriate fees (currently \$15) for the test.

We urge you to bring exact amount of cash. 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 without either your SSN or FRN, the FCC will not process your application. If you are upgrading, it is essential to bring your CSCE and a copy showing proof of recent passed exam if not already processed by the FCC.

If you have any questions regarding our test session or about upgrading, please contact me (evenings): (708) 535 2981 or preferred - via e mail at: [abukowski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abukowski@sbcglobal.net).

Again - The test fee is still \$15.00 (cash only -- no credit cards or checks).

73's AL – N9ZD

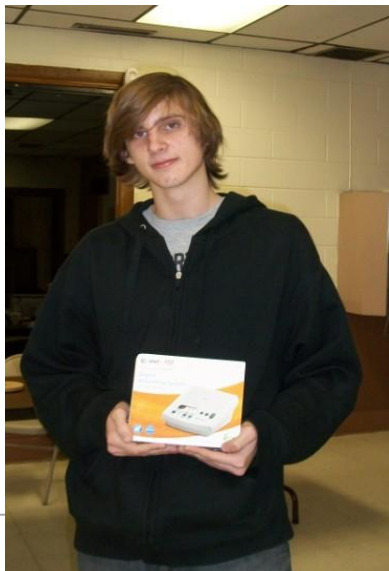
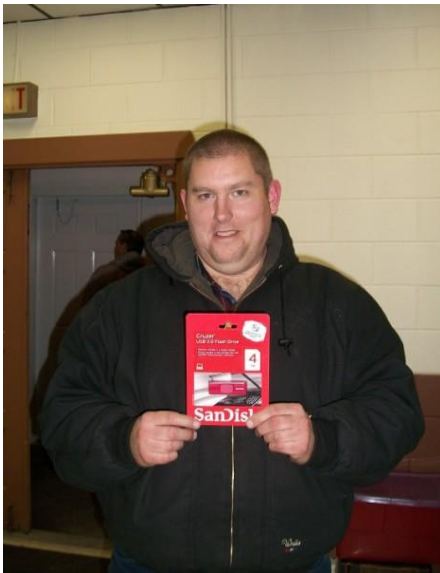


**Hamfesters Monthly Raffle**

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 any- thing 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



Special thanks go to Brian W9HLQ for sending us the following article.

You will enjoy this bit of history.

CAR TUNES Radios are so much a part of the driving experience, it seems like cars have always had them. But they didn't. Here's the story.

#### SUNDOWN

One evening in 1929 two young men named William Lear and Elmer Wavering drove their girlfriends to a lookout point high above the Mississippi River town of Quincy, Illinois, to watch the sunset. It was a romantic night to be sure, but one of the women observed that it would be even nicer if they could listen to music in the car. Lear and Wavering liked the idea. Both men had tinkered with radios – Lear had served as a radio operator in the U. S. Navy during World War I – and it wasn't long before they were taking apart a home radio and trying to get it to work in a car. But it wasn't as easy as it sounds: automobiles have ignition switches, generators, spark plugs, and other electrical equipment that generate noisy static interference, making it nearly impossible to listen to the radio when the engine was running.

#### SIGNING ON

One by one, Lear and Wavering identified and eliminated each source of electrical interference. When they finally got their radio to work, they took it to a radio convention in Chicago. There they met Paul Galvin, owner of Galvin Manufacturing Corporation. He made a product called a "battery eliminator" a device that allowed

battery-powered radios to run on household AC current. But as more homes were wired for electricity, more radio manufacturers made AC-powered radios. Galvin needed a new product to manufacture. When he met Lear and Wavering at the radio convention, he found it. He believed that mass-produced, affordable car radios had the potential to become a huge business.

Lear and Wavering set up shop in Galvin's factory, and when they perfected their first radio, they installed it in his Studebaker. Then Galvin went to a local banker to apply for a loan. Thinking it might sweeten the deal, he had his men install a radio in the banker's Packard. Good idea, but it didn't work – half an hour after the installation, the banker's Packard caught on fire. (They didn't get the loan.)

Galvin didn't give up. He drove his Studebaker nearly 800 miles to Atlantic City to show off the radio at the 1930 Radio Manufacturers Association convention. Too broke to afford a booth, he parked the car outside the convention hall and cranked up the radio so that passing conventioners could hear it. That idea worked – he got enough orders to put the radio into production.

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME

That first production model was called the 5T71. Galvin decided he needed to come up with something a little catchier. In those days many companies in the phonograph and radio businesses used the suffix "ola" for their names – Radiola, Columbiola, and

Victrola were three of the biggest. Galvin decided to do the same thing, and since his radio was intended for use in a motor vehicle, he decided to call it the Motorola. But even with the name change, the radio still had problems: When Motorola went on sale in 1930, it cost about \$110 uninstalled, at a time when you could buy a brand-new car for \$650, and the country was sliding into the Great Depression. (By that measure, a radio for a new car would cost about \$3,000 today.) In 1930 it took two men several days to put in a car radio – the dashboard had to be taken apart so that the receiver and a single speaker could be installed, and the ceiling had to be cut open to install the antenna. These early radios ran on their own batteries, not on the car battery, so holes had to be cut into the floorboard to accommodate them. The installation manual had eight complete diagrams and 28 pages of instructions.

#### HIT THE ROAD

Selling complicated car radios that cost 20 percent of the price of a brand-new car wouldn't have been easy in the best of times, let alone during the Great Depression – Galvin lost money in 1930 and struggled for a couple of years after that. But things picked up in 1933 when Ford began offering Motorolas pre-installed at the factory. In 1934 they got another boost when Galvin struck a deal with B. F. Goodrich Tire Company to sell and install them in its chain of tire stores. By then the price of the radio, installation included, had dropped to \$55. The Motorola car radio was

off and running. (The name of the company would be officially changed from Galvin Manufacturing to “Motorola” in 1947.)

In the meantime, Galvin continued to develop new uses for car radios.

In 1936, the same year that it introduced push-button tuning, it also introduced the Motorola Police Cruiser, a standard car radio that was factory preset to a single frequency to pick up police broadcasts. In 1940 he developed with the first handheld two-way radio – the Handie- Talkie – for the U. S. Army.

A lot of the communications technologies that we take for granted today were born in Motorola labs in the years that followed World War II. In 1947 they came out with the first television to sell under \$200. In 1956 the company introduced the world's first pager; in 1969 it supplied the radio and television equipment that was used to televise Neil Armstrong's first steps on the Moon. In 1973 it invented the world's first handheld cellular phone. Today Motorola is the second-largest cell phone manufacturer in the world. And it all started with the car radio.

#### WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

The two men who installed the first radio in Paul Galvin's car, Elmer Wavering and William Lear, ended up taking very different paths in life. Wavering stayed with Motorola. In the 1950's he helped change the automobile experience again when he developed the first automotive alternator, replacing inefficient and



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unreliable generators. The invention lead to such luxuries as power windows, power seats, and, eventually, air-conditioning. Lear also continued inventing. He holds more than 150 patents. Remember eight-track tape players? Lear invented that. But what he's really famous for are his contributions to the field of aviation. He invented radio direction finders for planes,

aided in the invention of the autopilot, designed the first fully automatic aircraft landing system, and in 1963 introduced his most famous invention of all, the Lear Jet, the world's first mass-produced, affordable business jet.

(Not bad for a guy who dropped out of school after the eighth grade.)

We need your input:

As the above article demonstrates, there are some great stories out there involving radio. We thought it would be fun to get some of the Hamfesters best radio stories to print in the Hamgab. For instance, my older brother is a ham and heard one of the early space shuttle amateur radio transmissions on his mobile rig. He still has a certificate from NASA in his office verifying the contact. It is one of the reasons I wanted to get my license. We'd like to know what the Hamfesters are doing. If it's that hard to come by DX contact, working a satellite, your first CW contact, getting that digital mode to work or whatever, we'd like to hear about it. Let us know when you did it, where you did it and how you did it. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

The Editors



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# 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. September meetings may vary if our meeting date conflicts with the Crestwood Flower show.

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

VE TESTING: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month at the Oak Forest City Hall, 15440 S. Central Ave. Testing begins at 9:00 AM but we ask that you arrive 10 minutes early. Exam fee is now \$15.00. Al N9ZD VE Team Chairman

## Special Activities

Hamfesters Big Peotone Hamfest: Our 78<sup>th</sup> annual Hamfest coming August 2012-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 23 & June 24 2012 at 115<sup>th</sup> and Oketo Avenue, Worth, IL. 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](http://www.hamfesters.org) Brian W9HLQ is Webmaster

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

*Deadline for Submitting to the Hamgab is the fifteenth of the month.*



Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 102

Bedford Park, IL

60499-0102

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