

Ham Gab

Next meeting: March 2nd

March 2012

PO Box 102 Bedford Park, IL 60499-0102 www.hamfesters.org

Special Interest Articles

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March Birthdays

John K9DRS
Harry WB9EDP
Daniel W9GOB
Wayne KC9IC
Matthew N9JXR
Robert W9LNQ
Louis W9LRS
Roger K9RB
Terry N9RFY
Robert KB9YRE
Dennis KA9ZZT

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President-Don KC9EQQ Vice President –Jim KB9CYL Secretary-Patty KC9LYE Treasurer- ED WA9EOL SGT at Arm-Rich N9UNQ Trustee-Bruno K9QKB

Board Members

Nora KC9MLV Jim KA2DRQ Kurt WB9FMC Mike W9MCS John WB9JTS

Hamgab Editors
Steve & Eric
KC9OOL & KC9OOM
Scapstone@aol.com

The White Elephant sale will be during the next meeting on March 2nd.





Special meeting in April: Steve Darnall, host of Those Were the Days will be the featured speaker. Note: The meeting will be on Friday April 13th 2012 due to Good Friday falling on April 6th.

We are very excited to have Steve Darnall, host of *Those Were the Days* on WDCB-FM and *Radios Golden Age* on yesterdayusa.com as the headliner at the April meeting. Those Were the Days is a must listen at our house on Saturday afternoons. We especially have enjoyed the recent shows as February is Jack Benny month. What will Steve have to say? Only The Shadow Knows, but it is sure to be good.

We would also like to thank Al N9DZ for bringing the DVD of the American Airline Jumbo Jet cockpit as it flew from New York to LA. We felt as if we were right up there flying the plane. It was amazing. Also, a special thanks goes out to John KC9OOO for the DVD of Dr Muchow's radios. What an impressive collection. His museum must have been quite a site.

AN ANCESTRY TO BE PROUD OF!

THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ MARCH 2012

I am part Cherokee Indian. And never have I been prouder to be such after having done research on a topic I began to pursuit last year. It is a topic of which I promised I would bring to you in due time. The subject matter is that of the brave Navajo Code talkers who served as U.S Marines during World War Two and whose service contributed greatly towards turning the tide to Victory for the U.S.A.

We fellow Ham operators know a little something about how important good solid communications are. I believe you will find that to be even more so as I convey some details about my topic of choice for this month's President's Column. My research is derived from several reputable sources, including that of Navajocodetalkers.org and others, so I believe the facts contained here within are to be considered credible.

World War II. The Pacific Theater. The Japanese were proving to be quite successful in breaking any code that the U.S were using in conveying necessary messages pertaining to war maneuvers to all U.S units engaged in battle operations. That is until they, the Japanese, ran into the Navajo language. Up until the use of that language, the losses of American Military personnel was extensive due to the skilled code-breakers of the Japanese Military.

Enter Phillip Johnston, a World War I veteran and the son of a missionary who grew up on a Navajo Reservation. Johnston knew that during WW I, the language of the Choctaw and Cherokee Indian was used successfully as a code for U.S Armed Forces. Johnston was also aware of the dilemmas faced by the current Marines were in coming up with a code that the Japanese could not crack. Johnston arranged a meeting with Major General Clayton B. Vogel, the commanding General of Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet to demonstrate how perhaps the Navajo language could be the code the Marines were looking for.

The Major was so impressed with the tests using the Navajo language that Johnston had arranged with Vogel that an initial 29 Navajo recruits were to be trained in the implementation of the Navajo Language as a code. A code that due to its complexities of dialect, syntax and tonal qualities became ultimately unbreakable by the Japanese forces. As an added plus, a Navajo Code Talker could decipher a message in 20 seconds, compared to the 30 minutes it might take a deciphering machine to accomplish. In the end, several hundred Navajo Indians were recruited, went through Boot camp and then attended Navajo Code school.

Believe it or not, the average age of a Navajo recruit was between the ages of 15 to 35. Why so young? Birth certificates were rare to be found of the Navajo recruits, hence ages were hard to prove. But they the recruits devotion to duty was certainly not hard to prove. An example of that devotion occurred at Iwo Jima where for days on end over 800 messages were sent without error to fellow code talkers on opposite ends of the Island .It is a widely held belief that had it not been for Navajos at Iwo Jima, that Island probably would not of been wrested from the Japanese by the U.S. and her allies.

A couple of interesting facts about the Navajo Code talkers. Everything learned in Code school had to be memorized, word for word, letter for letter. There were no "Field Manuals and no "Cheat Sheets" for the students to take with them into battle. The risk to carry such information on one's person during battle was too great especially in case of capture. Such was the case of one such capture of a Navajo U.S. Marine, (who happened to not be a Code talker), by the Japanese at the Bataan March. The Japanese tortured the Marine continuously, but as he later revealed after his liberation to his superior officers, he just could not crack the code because even though the code was based on the Navajo language, the aforementioned initial 29 recruits developed numerous layers of dialect and tonal ranges that made it impossible for even a fellow Navajo not trained in this code to try to decipher.

After World War II, the Navajo code was continued in use all the way through the beginning of the Viet Nam War. Official Recognition by our government of the accomplishments of the Navajo code talkers was not until 1968 when the operations of the Navajo's efforts were declassified. 1992 saw further recognition when then President Reagan presented them with a certificate of Recognition. In 2000, then President Clinton bestowed upon 29 surviving members of the World War II Navajo Code Talkers with The



Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. In July of 2001, then President George W. Bush personally presented the same medal to four surviving members and 24 more medals to the families of 24 code talkers no longer living. In subsequent years, Choctaw Code talkers were also recognized posthumously for their contributions also.

My sources are submitted as being from <u>Navajocodetalkers.org</u>, <u>www.history.navy.mil</u> and Wikipedia.

I trust you found this article interesting and very relevant to what we Ham Operators do on a daily basis- and that is provide communications across the world in times of peace and War. As, I said before, I am very proud of what my Indian forefathers did to help the Free world win World War II. And you should be proud of the contributions you as Ham Operators bring to the proverbial microphone each and every day.

Back on the beat- March 2nd, is White Elephant Sale day, so bring your computer and radio items to sell and arrive early to get the best spot to sell those no longer used items. I will have the doors open at 6pm for set up.

I am very excited to announce to you that Steve Darnall host of the Those Were the Days radio program heard on Saturdays from 1pm to 5pm, on WDCB 90.9 will be our very special speaker at the Friday, April 13th meeting of Hamfesters. Steve will speak of anecdotes about the Golden age of Radio and its many popular programs, like the Shadow, Jack Benny, Glen Miller and more. In addition, he will play audio clips from some of those great programs of Radio yesteryear. *PLEASE NOTE: Due to Good Friday falling on Friday April 6th, the April meeting will be held on Friday April 13th, 2012.*

On behalf of Nora and I, 73's to all of you and we will see you March 2nd.

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

Biography: Steve Darnall

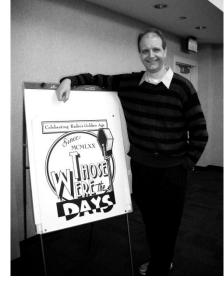
As the host of *Those Were the Days* on WDCB-FM and *Radio's Golden Age* on yesterdayusa.com, Steve Darnall has the opportunity to indulge in his twin fascinations for American history and popular culture.

Steve discovered the Golden Age of Radio at age 12, when his father Jack turned the dial to Chuck Schaden's *Those Were the Days* and out came the sounds of Fibber McGee and Molly. Thus began a relationship with the early days of radio that continues to this day.

Steve's own radio career began as a freshman at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange, Illinois, when he joined the school's 10-watt station, WLTL. Steve was ostensibly brought on as a newsreader, but his fascination with the Golden Age of Radio led station management to offer him a two-hour show, Radio's Golden Age, which would air Saturday mornings. The show ran for six months as Steve tried to divide his time between radio and his other love, theatre; however, he vowed he would keep the name Radio's Golden Age in case he should need it again.

Between then and now, Steve tried his hand as an actor and spent several years as the "voice" of Klondike Ice Cream. (This opportunity allowed Steve to work "with" Gary Coleman as Steve asked William Shakespeare "Would you write a TV sitcom for a Klondike Bar?") In the 1990s, he tried his hand as a professional musician with the sardonically named Steve Darnall and the Ultimate Career Move. Steve's professional writing career began in 1984, when he sold a brief article to the late, lamented Trouser Press Magazine. (Presumably the check will be arriving any day now.) In 1993, Steve contributed his first article to Chuck Schaden's Nostalgia Digest, a piece about the great Bob and Ray. That same year, Steve joined the staff of Hero Illustrated, a publication about the comic-book industry, as a writer and editor,

leaving in 1995 to enter the world of freelancing. However, he wasn't done with comic books yet. In 1994, Slave Labor Graphics published the first issue of *Empty Love Stories*, in



which Steve and a plethora of talented artists spoofed the breathless world of romance comics. After two issues with Slave Labor Graphics, Steve decided to try his own hand at publishing, and thus Funny Valentine Press was born. During this time, Steve and his good friend Alex Ross collaborated on *Uncle Sam*, a two-issue series for DC Comics' Vertigo imprint that won raves from both *The New York Times* and *The People's Tribune*.

Steve also spent the latter half of the '90s as an entertainment writer for a variety of publications, including the weekly newspaper insert Coverstory and the Chicago Tribune. As a contributor to the Tribune's Friday, Tempo, and Arts sections, Steve interviewed artists, writers, and performers of all stripes--including Those Were the Days founder Chuck Schaden. In 2004. Chuck decided to cut back on his workload and contacted Steve about taking over as publisher and editor of Nostalgia Digest Magazine. Steve's tenure began with the Summer 2005 issue. In early 2009, Chuck announced his plans to retire from radio and Steve agreed to step into the role of the host and producer of Those Were the Days, beginning with the July 4, 2009 broadcast. Later that year, YesterdayUSA founder Bill Bragg invited Steve to contribute a weekly program to his internet radio station. Steve agreed, and in March of 2010 Radio's Golden Age made its return. Steve lives in Chicago with his wife, Meg Guttman and the "executive producers" of Radio's Golden Age, Nora and Lulu

Board meeting minutes – Patti, KC9LYE

HAMFESTERS RADIO CLUB

Board Meeting Minutes 23 January 2012

Vice President Jim Riley called the meeting to order at 1931 hours in the absence of the president.

<u>President's Report</u> there was no report because Don was tending to his father's illness.

Health and Welfare

Nora KC9MLV's mother is in the hospital. Mike W9MCS's mother is in the hospital. On a lighter note, Bob N9JYX set his arm on fire.

A motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting was made by Kurt WB9FMC and seconded by James KAZDRQ. Passed.

The treasurer's report was given by Ed WA9EOL. Motion to accept was made by John WB9JTS and seconded by James KAZDRQ, passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Program: KB9CYL reported that Don is talking to Steve Darnall of WDCB about a presentation on old time radio at the April meeting.

Hamfest: Kerry AA9SB reported that he will contact vendors to verify that they are aware of our new one-day schedule. There was also much discussion about generating interest in the non-ham community for the fest.

Ideas included code contests, live presentations, and videos.



Discussion continues about ambiguities in the club's constitution, specifically the definitions of honorary and life members, and the difference between board members and officers. John WB9J TS made a motion to inform the club that we would form a constitutional amendment committee to address these issues. Time and place to be announced at the general meeting. The motion was seconded by Ed WA9EOL and passed.

A motion to adjourn was made by WB9JTS and seconded by WA9EOL. Meeting adjourned at 2033 hours

Notice from Membership chairman:

I have updated the rosters on the web site to be more current. Check the date on the web page to see if there have been any changes. I have updated the Roster by Call, Roster by Name, and the 2012 Dues Status. I will attend to the email and full 11 page roster when I have some time. If you like your birth month recognized in HamGab go to the 2012 Dues page and verify your birth month is listed correctly.

Brian W9HLO

Board meeting minutes – Patti, KC9LYE

Hamfesters WQAA Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Feb. 3, 2012
Roll: Don KC0EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL,
Patti KC9LYE, Rich NQUNQ.
The meeting began at 7:35 PM. 46
members attended, 5 visitors; Arlene
Nabors, Walter KC9SYX, Joe McGowan,
Matt Flisk, and Julie Biedess. Welcome
Everyone!

Health & Welfare: Don's KE9EQQ, & Nora's KC9MLV, parent's are in the hospital, Nora's Mom, & Don's Dad.

President's Report: Don KCQEQQ. The Friday April 13th program will feature a guest speaker Steve Darnell host of the radio show Those Were the Days on 90.9 FM on WDCB Saturdays at 1:00PM-5:00PM.

Bob KB9YXH, works at a workshop that employs the disabled. The workshop needs an antenna and cable for a television. Can anyone help?

New Members: report by Brian WQHLQ, new member Matt Flisk, & Michael WA9YJIA.Welcome!

Club Minutes: The Jan. club minutes approved by Pat KBQKRT, 2nd by Bob N9JYX Treasurer's Report: by Ed WAQEOL, approved by Rich N9UNQ, & 2nd by Bill KCQKUX.

Dues are collected by Brian WQHLQ. We need more people to buy the monthly raffle tickets. The 2012 Roster and membership dues information is available on the clubs' website.

Programs: Tonight's DVD's a look inside a commercial flight, the pilots at work. And, the other DVD was the huge radio collection of Dr Muchow. Thank Brian W9HLQ.

March Program Annual White (any color is welcome) Elephant Sale the doors will Open at 5:30 PM for setup. Meeting will begin at 7:30 PM; it will be a shorter meeting. Only club members can sell. You can become a member that night. Club dues are \$20.00.

April 13th program: Steve Darnall guest speaker *Those Were the Days*. May Program-TBA. June program-Field Day. July program-Picnic on July 6th. Aug. program- Hamfest.

Publicity & Hamfest: report by Kerry AA9SB, publicity for tonight's meeting was sent. The deadline for submitting information is the 14th of the month. Hamfest 2012 there is no Saturday setup. Hamfest 2012 tickets & flyers will be available in March. The Hamfest committee is Kurt WB9FMC, James KA2DRQ. Mike WA9ZPM, send Hamfest vendors a postcard that they can use on the day of the Hamfest as ID.

March 2012

Field Day: Jim KB9CYL, Field Day June 23-24 2012 in Worth.

Hamgab: Steve KC9OOL, & Eric KC9OOM let us know what you're doing in Ham radio. Do you love CW? Are you mad about DX? Do you build antennas or rigs? Tell us.

Education: Al N9ZD, the VE testing pool for Extra class will change on July 1, 2012. Board Meeting: There will be a special session on Monday Feb. 27, at 7:00 PM Kurt WB9FMC, & James KA2DRQ, members of the constitutional amendment committee will be there. Topic: Honorary and Life Club

Membership. Come and let us know how you feel.

The regular board meeting will begin at 7:30 PM. Club members are Welcome at all board meetings.

New Business: Chuck N9DKJ, sewage water in the quarry, pollution of the water table. If you're interested in learning more contact Chuck Dieuniye N9DKJ (I'm not sure of the last name).

Adjournment approved by Bob N9JYX, & 2nd by James KA2DRQ. Meeting ended at 10:00PM.

Door Prize Winners: Patti KC9LYE, Kerry

Raffle Winners: Steve KC9OOL, Bob N9JYX

CQ Field Day de Jim Riley

Field Day is under four months away and it's time to take nomination for the GOTA station call. Since we like to use a different call each year, I'll remind you of some past calls: W9HLQ, AB9MZ, WB9STB, and W9KXT.

Here are a few guidelines for nominations.

- 1) It must be an Extra call so we can operate everywhere on all bands.
- 2) No self-nominations. Someone must nominate you.
- 3) It should be someone associated with our Field Day operation.

I have emailed all the usual suspects and I'm happy to report that almost everyone will be returning is his or her capacity from last year. The lone holdout is my wife who's considering not making Saturday supper. I might be able to change her mind but it would be nice to have a backup in place if she decides to bow out.

For anyone who's new to the club or hasn't been paying attention, Field Day is June 23-24 at Ashton Park, 115th and Beloit, 1/4 mile west of Harlem Ave. Operations run from 1800Z Saturday to 1800Z Sunday. That's 1 p.m. to 1 p.m. for the Zulu time impaired. Setup begins at 0800 Saturday morning. We need all hands on deck to set up the GOTA tent, antennas, generators, and operating positions.

Hamfest Update - March 2012 Kerry AA9SB

• We're introducing a couple of new features this year: First of all, we're going from a 2-day hamfest to a one-day hamfest. This will mean there will be no vendor setups on hamfest Saturday. Vendors will have to set up earlier on Sunday morning. I personally don't know how this'll work out, but if it doesn't, we'll go back to the 2-day format in 2013.

And secondly, we've created a new hamfest subcommittee within the larger committee where Kurt, WB9FMC, and James, KA2DRQ (and others) will work on special events including a special speaker. Kurt and

- James will handle the publicity for these events, also. This will be known as the Special Events and Activities subcommittee.
- Jim, KB9CYL, Hamfest Ticket
 Coordinator, just picked up our 2012
 Hamfest flyers -- hot off the presses
 from our printer. Take some, and if
 you're going to a hamfest, be sure to
 bring them with you and drop them off
 at their club table -- and pass them out.
 And get your tickets, also, -- either from
 our hamfest ticket sales coordinator Jim,
 or from the ticket sellers -- and sell!
 --Kerry, AA9SB, Hamfest Committee
 chairperson

Hamfest Ticket Sales de Jim Riley KB9CYL

It's that time of year again. No, not Mardi Gras or St. Patrick's Day. It's our annual White Elephant Sale.

The White Elephant sale is our normal kick-off for Hamfest ticket sales. With it being a month later this year, that shortens the selling season by a full 30 days. I'll have tickets and flyers for this year's fest for you to pick up and/or purchase along with

whatever treasures you may find at the sale.

There will be only five months to sell advance tickets this year. Let's get Hamfest ticket sales off to a good start by getting a bunch of tickets out in circulation. I'll have a thousand with me and I'd be very happy to go home with none of them.

Advance tickets are \$8.00 this year

Hamfesters VE Testing: By Al Bukowski N9ZD

Hamfesters Radio club VE's administered FCC Amateur Radio exams February 11, 2012. There were 5 candidates in which four passed and earned their Technician ticket and one passed the General and Extra exam to earn the Extra Class License. Congratulations to the candidates. VE's who graded these exams were: James KA9DRQ, Gene KB9RNM and myself N9ZD. I want to thank all the VE's who have given the dedicated time helping at the Exam sessions.

If you or a friend are planning on taking an Amateur Radio examination, please remember that Hamfesters conducts FCC authorized VEC 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. City Hall Doors open at 9:00 AM. We begin testing at about 9:15 AM. Amateur Radio Exam signs are posted at the main entrance to direct you to the City Hall 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. Walk-ins are welcomed: however an email

to <u>abukowski@sbcglobal.net</u> informing me your intentions would be appreciated.

Very important: Please remember to bring the following items with you to any exam session: The appropriate fees (currently \$15) for the test. We urge you to bring exact amount of cash, a picture ID (ex: driver's license), the original and a

copy of your signed valid Amateur Radio license if already licensed. A calculator if you would like to use one.

It is very important to have your Social Security Number, or an issued FRN (Federal Registration Number). You may use the FRN in place of your SSN because without either your SSN or FRN, the FCC will not process your application. If you are upgrading from a recent exam, it is essential to bring your valid CSCE and a copy showing proof of recent passed exam(s) if not already processed by the FCC.

Our next test session will be held on Saturday March 10, 2012.

Please note: If you are planning to take the Extra exam in the near future, please read the following.

The present Extra class pool will no longer be valid and the present Extra class exams will no longer be given after June 30, 2012.

The NEW Extra class (Element 4) exams will be administered starting July 1, 2012. If you plan to take the New Extra exam after July 1, 2012, you should review the new Extra Class question pool (2012 - 2016).

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

73's AL - N9ZD

Note: Gregg's Address has changed:
Gregg Rosenberg, AB9MZ
7849 Bristol Park Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60477
All phone numbers do not change - just the mailing address

New Members

Michael Ferrara WA9YJA (general) 6825 W. Gunnison St. Harwood Heights, IL 60706

b/d: 12-25-1950
Ph: 708/867-9156
Michael likes scuba diving, target shooting, music.
He operates 2, 40 and 20 meters. He would be interested in a board member or club officer.

Matthew Flisk, no call yet 6800 W. Golfview Ln. Palos Heights, IL 60463

Ph: 708/420-1735 Email; mflisk6962@arrl.net b/d: 9-6-1962 Walter Rymarczyk, KC9SYX general class 2650 N. Lakeview Ave.' Chicago, II 60614

Ph: 773/404-6439

email: kc9syx@gmail.com

Likes old radios, boat anchors, photography. Works mainly on VHF and

UHF

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

kb9vxh@vahoo.com or call me at (708) 429-4511.

73' Bob Richter KB9YXH Raffle Chairman

Editor's note: We had some instructions for placing the Hamgab on a Kindle or IPAD and some radio happenings, but this month's Hamgab ran a little long so we'll try to get them in next month. Send us an e-mail if you need them sooner. As always, more pictures can be found in the web version of the Hamgab and on the website. As Bob KB9YXH mentioned above, please support our raffle. It helps the club finances and you might just win a nice prize.

73

Steve & Eric









































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 4th Monday of each month at the Oremus Center, 7902 Oketo, Bridgeview, IL

VE TESTING: Every 2nd Saturday of the Month a 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 78th 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 115th and Oketo Avenue, Worth, IL. Jim KB9CYL Field Day Chairman

WAHM: Worked all Hamfester Members- work
VE TESTING: Every 2nd Saturday of the Month at
the Oak Forest City Hall, 15440 S. Central Ave.
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: <u>www.hamfesters.org</u> 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 www.Hamfesters.org