



Ham Gab

Next meeting: May 4th

May 2012

PO Box 102

Bedford Park, IL

60499-0102

www.hamfesters.org

Special Interest Articles

Ground That Mic pg. 8

Henry Code? pg. 9

May Birthdays

Donald KC9EQQ

Brian W9HLQ

Tom KC9JZF

David N9KPO

Mathew AA9M

Matt K9MS

Gregg AB9MZ

John KC9NKK

Steve KC9OOL

Evencio KB9PMW

Carl Coffelt (no call sign)

Cathy KC9NRH

Officers

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

Don't miss the Red Cross Emergency Communications Response Vehicle (barring any emergencies) at our next meeting on May 4th.



Hope you enjoyed radio host Steve Darnall last month. What a speaker. It really was the Golden Age of Radio. Thanks again to all of the club members who made it possible.



Get Your Tickets!



WE HAVE
SOME GREAT
PRIZES
AVAILABLE SO
SUPPORT YOUR
CLUB AND BUY
A RAFFLE
TICKET AT THE
NEXT MEETING.

FINALLY.....WE GET OUR JUST DUE- BUT AT WHAT PRICE?

THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ

MAY 2012

"Hey 10-4 Good buddy, what's your handle?" "You and your goofy Ham radio, it will never be used in a crisis, what a waste of time!" I have heard these things said more than a few times over the years, since I got my ticket, and I will bet some of you have too. Does it make my blood boil, my blood pressure rise, and insult my sense of pride I have for Ham Radio? Yes, it does it as a matter of fact! But then I stop and remember Katrina, Joplin, Oak Lawn and the new kid on the block of disasters- Harrisburg. I think about the significant effects these calamities have had on their victims- the loss of one's home, business and family members and friends. But then I recall.....let me stop there for a few moments as I digress for a bit if you will.

Last week, I attended the annual meeting in Peoria of the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association, commonly known as IESMA. As a member of Bridgeview EMA, one gets to attend events like IESMA a couple of times a year. It affords one the opportunity to hear about the latest developments in our field, attend some great seminars and be privy to some firsthand accounts of disasters and Major Incidents in the Midwestern Region.

One theme seemed to run rampant throughout the four day conference. And that theme was how important Ham Radio has become in helping to manage and direct these disasters to a reasonable conclusion and resolve. I never knew until last week, just how many of my EMA brothers and sisters across the state relied on Ham operators, (and for that matter are Hams themselves) to help in disaster management. The partnerships that exist nowadays between Hams, various state agencies, hospitals, police, fire, EMS and yes, EMA has become an immeasurably significant, palpable and viable resource that any state would do well to imitate and insure that these relationships continue.

When you speak to guys like Alan C. Niness, the Director of EMA for Saline County, which happens to be the county for Harrisburg, the town that recently was devastated by a tornado you see in his face that he gets it. He gets how important it is that everyone must work together in times of disaster. I sure in the heck would not of wanted to be his shoes a few weeks ago, but if I ever was, I hope I can be just as resourceful as he was in getting all the above agencies to pull together to get my town back on its feet. My hats are off to guys like him who know why it is so important to bond with those who can make a difference in getting your neighbors back to as normal a life as possible after devastation redirects one's life. Ham operators aren't just keying up a mike after a disaster, they are out there with the shovels, sandbags, stretchers, trucks, backhoes and most importantly hearts to listen with and hugs to grab onto those people who need all that I just mentioned. We Ham Operators are a compassionate lot. And I think that is why so many Disaster professionals call upon our services when trouble comes to town. They see our determination and spirit to help our fellow man in our eyes, our heart and soul. They too now get it, and for that we the members of the Amateur Radio Community are grateful. We will endeavor always to help our neighbor and First Responder alike through our dedication to what we bring to the table every time disaster strikes. That my friends is why ignorance on the part of those who know no better of what we do should not be tolerated indeed yes, but let us choose to continue to educate the non-Ham world. We can do this through clubs like ours, volunteering our Radio services and know how to our communities when they need it most. Because sooner or later they will need us, whether it's Illinois, Louisiana or somewhere else and we as Ham Operators must be always at the ready to answer the call, answer the need and yes sometimes even answer the uninformed with our passion that is.....Ham Radio.

Segue time.... Speaking of Emergencies, we at Hamfesters are proud to present at our May 4th meeting, a program put on by the American Red Cross that will present in person The Emergency Communications Response Vehicle. As long as no disaster calls, the vehicle will be demonstrated by one of the many dedicated volunteers who operate this vehicle and others like it across the country that are within the Resources of the Red Cross. A program on the vehicle will be held after its demonstration at our meeting that night of May 4th. So mark your calendars for this very important event that all Ham Operators can surely relate to. And don't forget bring a friend or two.



Back on the beat- Nora and I are so happy that so many of you enjoyed last month's program featuring Steve Damall and his program on Old Time Radio shows. As you might know, Steve is the host of his Those Were the Days Radio show on WDCB and was kind enough to promote our club and his appearance at our meeting on his show and we thank him for that. And I thank you, the members of Hamfesters for your support and great turnout we had that night. The word is out! Hamfesters is the place to go to see great programs and meet some great people-you!!

. PLEASE NOTE: Should the Red Cross ECRV be asked to respond to an incident and cannot make our meeting, we will run one of the many videos we have available for viewing on various topics. So, either way we will a great night in store for you and your colleagues.

Future Program reminder time: Mr. Field day himself, Jim KB9CYL who is the Chairperson of Field day, will be speaking about Field Day at our June 2nd meeting.

July 6th is our Fourth of July Barbeque and Salute to Veterans event. Ron KB9TCX will be bringing the Chicago Ridge VFW Honor Guard to post colors. Thanks Ron for that and your service to your country.

August 3rd our one and only Hamfest Chairperson Kerry AA9SB will be speaking about how you can help make Hamfest a great event. You can help him now though by contacting him and offering your services early on his committee.

Raffle news! Have you stopped by Bob KB9YXH and Joe KA9KBU and bought your ticket or two at our meetings? If not, why not? Great guys to talk to and buy tickets from that help support our club. Show 'em you care, by being there!

A personal note or two: Get well wishes are in order for Bob N9JYX. See you soon Bob. And our special congrats to Jim KB9CYL and his XYL Judy on the marriage of their son Jim to Bridget back in March. What a great wedding they had!

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.

General meeting minutes – Jim, KB9CYL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Friday 13 April 2012

CALL TO ORDER

President Don Pointer KC9EQQ called the meeting to order at 1936 hours.

All said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Notes taken by Jim Riley KB9CYL in the absence of the secretary.

Don introduced Steve Darnall who immediately went into tonight's program on old-time radio. The business meeting resumed at 2115, after the break.

UPGRADES- None

HEALTH & WELFARE

Gregg AB9MZ reported that his dad had a heart attack.

BOARD MINUTES

A motion was made by Joe KA9QAT to approve the minutes of the last general meeting. It was seconded by James KA2DRQ and passed unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In the absence of Secretary Patti Gulick KC9LYE there was no secretary's report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ed WA9EOL gave the treasurer's report.

Ed also acknowledged Nora Pointer KC9MLV for her fine job in bringing refreshments each month.

Motion to approve by Joe KA9QAT, seconded by Gregg AB9MZ. Passed unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP

Brian W9HLQ reported on updates to the roster on the website.

Don asked for a round of applause for Brian, James KA2DRQ, and Joe KA9KBU for their work on the roster.

PROGRAMS

KC9EQQ listed the upcoming programs:

May: The Red Cross will be bringing their emergency communications vehicle

June: KB9CYL will show pictures from last Field Day

July: Our fourth annual cookout. Thanks to Rob KB9TCX we'll have the VFW honor guard.

August: Hamfest

September or October: Steve Cooper will talk about the big bands

PUBLICITY

Publicity has been sent out to the regular media outlets.

HAMFEST

Tickets and flyers are available. Information is out to vendors. Table registration forms have come in.

FIELD DAY

KB9CYL reported that we need a cook for supper on Saturday since KB9FQB had to back out due to family health issues. Information will be on the Village of Worth website shortly.

HAMGAB

Eric KC9OOM was regaled with a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" before giving his report reminding everyone that the deadline for the May issue was due in two days due to the late meeting this month.

Hamgab, May 2012

OLD BUSINESS

Michael KC9OPV spoke on the recent ARISS contact, thanking club members who helped out. He also mentioned that he had tickets to the FRRL hamfest on July 15 at Aurora Central HS.

NEW BUSINESS

Kurt WB9FMC was thanked for being our Walmart greeter for the evening. Gregg AB9MZ asked for help putting up antennas at his new QTH.

Tonight's donuts from Walmart were approved by the membership.

Bruno K9QKB won the raffle for the Wouxun radio.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS: Jeanine Vilimek and Joe KB9KBU

RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS: Bill KC9KUX and Ron KB9TCX

ADJOURNMENT

We adjourned at 2150 hours.

CQ Field Day de Jim Riley KB9CYL

Our top news story this month: George Young N9VOK will have the honor of his call being used by our GOTA station. This was decided unanimously by your Field Day team via email vote. Congratulations, George.

At the April meeting I was asked if there was any more room for operating time at Field Day. I reminded that person as I'll remind all of you: KB9CYL's number one rule of Field Day is "Everyone who wants to operate, operates." It doesn't matter if you're a world-class brass pounder or someone who doesn't know the difference between a mic and a straight key. If you want to get your feet wet and make a contact, every accommodation will be made for you to do just that.

If you'd like to feed your Field Day group, here's your big opportunity. We need a cook for supper

on Saturday. John KB9FQB told me on Friday that, due to a family health issue, he will be unable to cook that night. We have a grill, charcoal, and everything else. All you need to do is provide enough food for about thirty grateful people. You will be reimbursed for all expenses and your name will be put in the pantheon of Hamfesters' legendary Field Day cooks.

Finally, if you haven't been paying attention, this year's event is Saturday 23 June and Sunday 24 June beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday thru 1 p.m. Sunday. Altman Park in Worth at 115th and Oketo is the location. We need as many hands as possible on site at 8 a.m. to get us set up. Circle the dates and come operate with the best FD group in the area.

Board meeting minutes – Patti, KC9LYE

HAMFESTERS RADIO CLUB

Board Meeting Minutes

7:27 PM March 26, 2012

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Nora KC9MLV, Kurt WB9FMC, Mike W9MCS, Kerry AA9SB

President's Report: by Don KC9EQQ, I've received confirmation from Steve Darnall our guest speaker on Friday April 13th. April 6th is Good Friday, there's no meeting. Mr. Darnall hosts a weekly radio show on 90.90FM on Saturdays 1-5PM "Old Tim Radio." On April 13th we'll say the pledge, then begin the program. The club's business meeting will take place after our break. We'll have doughnuts from Walmart. Ed WA9EOL, Nora Kc9MLV, & Don KC9EQQ say these doughnuts are very good, and are cheaper than Huck Finn's.

Also, at April's meeting, Kurt WB9FMC, & Mike W9MCS will be our greeters. Members and visitors please sign in, it makes it easier when burying refreshments, set up before the meetings, and the secretary (KC9LYE), can double check names and call signs.

John Russell N9HVF, he was our guest speaker on Sept. 9, 2011 says Hello to all his fellow hams. The Program on May 4th will be the Red Cross, there will be a tour of their radio communications vehicle. Don DC9EQQ, please use civil language when talking to me, profanity is unnecessary.

Tom KA9ZXN would like there to be stand-by VE testers, at the last session there were six.

Health & Welfare: Report by Mike W9MCS, John WB9JTS has an infected leg. He's out of the hospital and has to stay off his feet. Best wishes for a speedy recovery John.

Minutes: The Feb. board minutes were approved by Jim KB9CYL, 2nd by Kurt WB9FMC. Publicity & Hamfest: By Kerry AA9SB, publicity has been sent for our April 13th meeting. Hamfest: Kerry is seeking help, needs a hamfest coordinator.

Kerry continues to contact vendors for our Hamfest 2012.

Constitution Chairman Report by Kurt WB9FMC, the re-wording will be shown to the board and voted on in the future.

Field Day: Report by Jim KB9CYL, there are no changes to the FD rules from last year.

Joe KA9KBU had fixed the feed line problems.

New Business: Kurt WB9FMC has been pricing antennas for the club's trailer, no decision has been reached. Tonight we discussed the Comet CX-333 tri band antenna, the cost \$175.00. There are reviews in QST.

ED WA9EOL, the recent AES catalog carries the Wouxun brand HT. Starting in May the business meeting will take place before the program.

Don KC9EQQ reported that he & Jim KB9CYL have spoken to James KA2DRQ. James knows a guy who will give our club tow 440 repeaters. We'll ask the members for feed-back. Should Hamfesters have it's own Repeater? Oct. Program: Steve Cooper has an orchestra, he also has video and audio of big band singers. He will bring the video and audio to share with us.

Adjournment: approved by Jim KB9CYL, 2nd by ED WA9EOL, at 8:35 PM.



Hamfest Update – May 2012 Kerry AA9SB

- Last month I've mentioned introducing a couple of new features for 2012: First of all, going from a 2-day hamfest to a one-day hamfest. (No vendor setups on hamfest Saturday.) Vendors will have to set up earlier on Sunday morning.

And secondly, creating 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.

- Our 2012 Hamfest flyers are hot off the presses from our printer. 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!
- Also, we're looking for a Volunteer Coordinator. Let me know. We'll have more updates at the April meeting and in the May HAMGAB.

--Kerry, AA9SB, Hamfest Committee chairperson

Hamfest Ticket Sales de Jim Riley KB9CYL

I'm gonna keep this article short and not so sweet. Not much has changed since last month. Only twenty tickets were put into circulation this month and none were sold.

It's May, the fest is only three months away and we need to sell tickets **NOW**. You know how to get hold of me. We need you to help make this year's fest a success

Congratulations to our raffle winners!



Hamfesters Roster News

Since Hamfesters has gone to paperless HamGab and Roster listings, we have had difficulties in developing a suitable system to keep the roster current. I believe that we now are making progress and hope you like the format we have now. Look for the roster links here at: <http://www.hamfesters.org/hamz16.htm>

Instead of one big online PDF file, I have the roster broken into several parts to aid in reading and printing. You can get your roster printed by **call sign** or by the **last name** of the member. In addition you can get the **email address** listed by the ham's call sign, your **dues status**, or **birth month** as our super highly tuned computer has it recorded.

If you need hard copy printout of the roster, your local library can print it out for you, even if you don't have a

computer. Also, Joe, KA9KBU, graciously prints out the roster from time to time. Contact Joe if you need a paper printout of the roster.

If you have **corrections to the roster**, I have set up a simple form on the Newsletter page where you can submit any changes you wish made to the roster. I publish a new version of the roster about every two months. I think this is better than once a year with the old paper copy.

Contact Brian, W9HLQ with any comments or questions regarding the Hamfester Roster.

73,
--Brian, W9HLQ--

Hamfesters VE Testing: By Al Bukowski N9ZD

Since I was out of town for the weekend, Tim AA9BV stepped in my place to administer the Amateur Radio exams. However, there were no candidates this past month April 14. I want to thank Tim and the other VE's dedicating their time helping at this Exam session.

If you or a friend are planning on taking an Amateur Radio examination, please remember that Hamfesters VE's 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 abukowski@sbcglobal.net 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 a 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 May 12, 2012.

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

Hamgab, May 2012

Extra class pool questions 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 is still \$15.00 (cash only -- no credit cards, Money Orders or checks).

73's AL - N9ZD

GROUND THAT MIC!

Many amateur radio stations experience RF that impedes their audio signals and causing garbled and distorted audio SSB - not sometimes enough for receiving stations to notice as they listen to a 3" speaker of a transceiver but careful listening in a wideband receiver with high quality receiving equalizers and studio monitor speakers allow this interference to be heard. Then there are the signals that have major problems with RF getting into their audio lines causing all sorts of problems.

Heil Sound Laboratories have discovered a very interesting fact. Most of the major transceivers today do not ground their microphone shields - the mic shields float. One of the things to be learned about building RF transmitters with speech audio sections was to ground those shields. Heil is a simple fix from Heil that anyone can make to their rig and it's effective. It applies to 4 or 8 pin mic connectors.

Plug your microphone cable into the front panel of the transceiver. Remove the two small Phillips head screws and the cable clamp they hold. Then remove the tiny

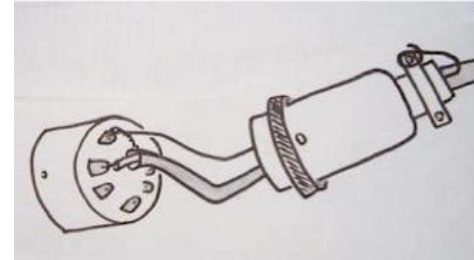
Phillips head screw that holds the rest of the metal sleeve.

Slide that back

onto the mic cable. Cut off the end of a resistor about 3" long. Locate the mic pin that has the shield of the mic cable soldered to it. With a small iron, carefully solder this solid wire to that shield and pin. Bring the sleeve back up the cable and attach to the connector with the small screw. This leaves the solid wire coming out the back of the connector. Replace the cable clamp and as you do that, tightly wrap that solid wire around one of the Phillips head screws and tighten the clamp assembly.

What you have accomplished is grounding the shield to the transceivers chassis ground through the ring on the mic connector. This simple tip has been a big help to many stations with RFI problems.

Courtesy of Frank VK2FJL
Reprinted with permission from
Westlakes Amateur Radio Club
Teralba, New South Wales



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

Congratulations to our raffle winners!



Editors Ramblings- A short article we hope you'll like.

Henry Code?

Joseph Henry was a school teacher in Albany New York in the 1830's. He needed something to keep the kids interested and he found it in the new field of electricity. He became famous for wrapping wires around an iron core and making strong electromagnets. One was even capable of lifting 1500 lbs. The kids loved it.

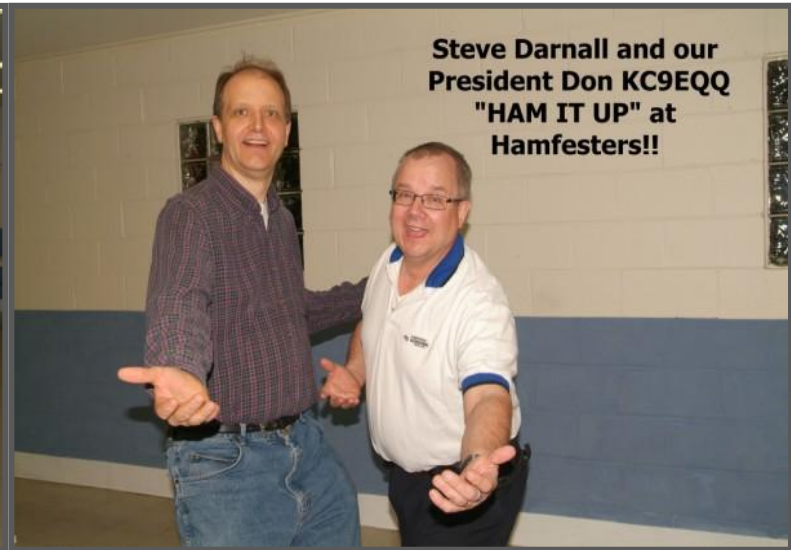
He also invented the telegraph. He devised a small electromagnet that could be turned on and off creating clicks on a small piece of metal. He realized that this could be used as a form of communication and the telegraph was born.

Samuel Morse was an unemployed former art student living off of his parents money. When his racist writings were being ignored, he looked for a more efficient way to spread his evil message. One day he heard a couple of Henry's students talking about his amazing new system of communication. Morse

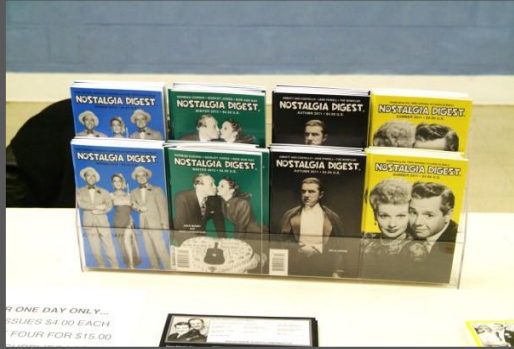
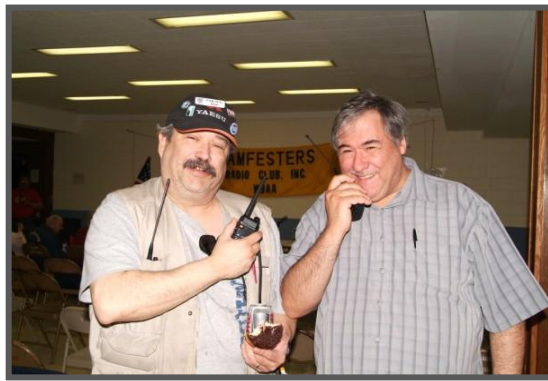
tried to build his own telegraph, but failed miserably. Morse went to Henry who told him how to build a telegraph and even gave him the equipment. Henry didn't believe in patents, Morse did. Henry thought knowledge should be shared for the good of all humanity. Morse wanted to get rich.

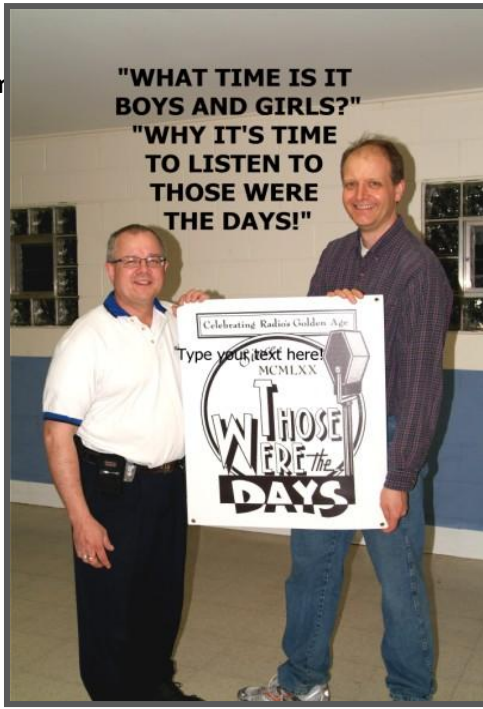
Morse patented the telegraph. He then convinced/bribed a couple of congressmen and got it built. But all's well that ends well. Joseph Henry went on to become one of the United States' greatest physicists loved by his students and peers alike. Morse spent the rest of his life in court trying to defend his patent. All of his notes on the telegraph had mysteriously disappeared. This brings me back to our title, Henry Code anyone?

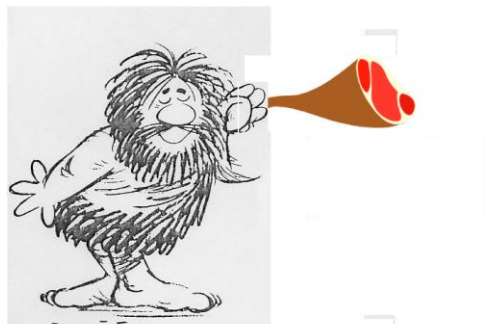
(source: The Electric Universe by David Bodanis)



Steve Darnall and our President Don KC9EQQ "HAM IT UP" at Hamfesters!!







The First Ham Operator



Hamgab, May 2012

Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 102

Bedford Park, IL 60499-0102

www.Hamfesters.org

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 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 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 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 KA9KBK 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
Patti KC9LYE Secretary

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