



# Ham Gab

Next meeting: June 1st

June 2012

PO Box 102  
Bedford Park, IL  
60499-0102

[www.hamfesters.org](http://www.hamfesters.org)

### Special Interest Articles

CQ Field Day pg. 4

Fractal Antennas pg. 8

### June Birthdays

Peter	KA9CDH
Zygmunt	KZ9DX
Jim	N8EAT
David	K9FGB
Paul	WD9GEH
Jim	W9MOM
Robert	K9MUY
Timothy	KC9POS
John	KG9QH
Robert	KB9YXH
Harling	KC9KUX
Linda	K9UOV

### 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

**Field Day 2012**  
 Saturday June 23  
 Sunday June 24  
 115<sup>th</sup> and Oketo Worth, IL

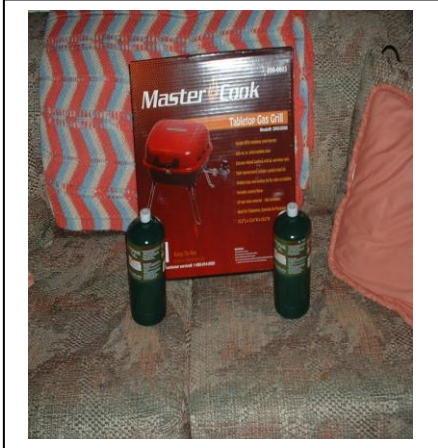


Field Day is coming. The walk through has been completed and all of the ducks are lining up in a row. Don't miss our next meeting for what will surely be an entertaining presentation by our own Jim Riley KB9CYL on all of the FD details. Also, don't miss the Sliders. That's right, for a change of pace we will have White Castle Sliders at the next meeting. (There will still be donuts in case you were worried.) See the map below for the FD site.



## See What You Can Win This Month!

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



FROM FIELD DAY TO HAMFEST  
AND SLIDERS TO VETS  
OUR CLUB IS THE BEST!

# THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

## DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ

### JUNE 2012

Ed N9TVU and his assistant Di are two people I need to thank from the gitgo in this month's President Column along with Ron Carlson and Kevin Joyce. All the aforementioned people are from the Red Cross and were all involved in one way or the other with providing you the Hamfester club member, a great demonstration last month of the Red Cross Emergency Communications Response Vehicle, commonly known as the ECRV.

Ed and Di were very generous with their time in showing off the unit and all its features to our members. Questions were answered about the unit in a very knowledgeable fashion by Ed and Di and gave all a new insight on just how valuable a tool the ECRV is when disaster strikes a community and impairs that town's communications systems. The ECRV rolls into a stricken area and can immediately provide a number of communication systems ranging from Radio service for First Responders to internet capabilities for other local officials providing a means for the town to request services it needs to get back on its feet.

I also should mention that Ed provided a great lecture complete with a video presentation on Hurricane Katrina and the involvement of the ECRV and Ham operators too for that matter during that devastating Hurricane of a few years back. I need to also thank Ron and Kevin for getting the ball rolling so that we could have the unit for a demo.

Okay, now how did this guy get into my column? That's the nastiest virus I have ever gotten in my computer not to mention the scariest looking one. don't



you think? Ok, all kidding aside, Jim Riley alias KB9CYL and our Field Day Chairman, will be our program presenter on June 1<sup>st</sup> when he hosts his Field Day presentation. Complete with a great slide show where no one is taken prisoner, he walks us through a typical weekend at Field day. He cares about this event so much that you can see it pouring out of him as he asks for your support and involvement in an event that promotes fellowship, good radio practices and a chance to put our radio skills to the test should ever a major disaster affect our area, requiring all fellow hams alike to come to the aid of their community. Who can argue with that logic. I know I can't!

Remember- Field Day weekend is that of June 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Come and be a part of the best Field day period. These people below did last year and had a ball!



Back on the beat- Just when you thought that the June 1<sup>st</sup> program could not get any better, it just did! Thanks to a great



idea of Nora KC9MLV, (my xyl), our donuts we normally have will have sliders to go along with them! So bring your appetite, (limit 2 per person), and enjoy a night of food, fellowship and fun- the only way we know how to- The Hamfesters way!

**Remember-** July 6<sup>th</sup> is our Fourth of July Barbeque and Salute to Veterans event. It's Potluck, so bring your favorite dish! We will pay a salute to our veterans that night with a VFW Honor guard and a special John Wayne patriotic recording will be played too around the time we say the Pledge of Allegiance.

August 5th is Hamfest. Thanks to the effort of Kerry AA9SB, we have acquired the Saturday before Hamfest for Vendor set up at no additional fee for this year. More details soon. Thanks Kerry for your hard work. Have you volunteered your services to Kerry for your Hamfest? This event sustains our club, provides a means for other Hams like yourselves to get to know each other better and by helping out with tasks such as ticket sales, set-up, customer service and the like shows that we are a team willing to do whatever it takes to make our club continue to be the most sought after club around by Ham operators new and old alike. What do you say? Do you have that special skill we can use August 5th? If so, bring it to Hamfest!

**One more note for the road.....**I kid around with Riley KB9CYL a lot as most of you know, but when it comes down to what he has done for Field day I am no fool to see that the new location he has gotten for us has done wonders for Field day. Located just east of Harlem on 115<sup>th</sup>, street in Worth, Illinois, this site he has acquired could not be any better for us. Show your support for guys like Jim who goes the extra mile to make Field day rock like no other Field day around and for that matter Kerry who works tirelessly to make Hamfest the great event it is. Come on out and give them your support and give them a call won't you with your helping hand?

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

W9AA Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club Meeting  
May 5, 2012 7:50 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9LYE, Patti KC9LYE .  
37 members attended, welcome to all our visitors.

The first half of our meeting was a program by the Red Cross, communications after a disaster. The role of amateur radio is included in the Red Cross disaster plan. After a break, the business meeting began at 9:05 PM.

Matt K9MS, & his daughter were at the meeting, welcome. Health & Welfare: Gregg AB9MZ, & John WB9JTS are doing better.

Club Minutes: The April minutes were approved by James KA2DRQ.

New Member: Harold joined Hamfesters tonight, he's studying for his ticket.

Welcome Harold!

Treasure's Report: Ed WA9LYE , our club's trailer has current plates. The club's taxes are paid. Report approved by Bob N9JYX.

Secretary's Report: by Patti KC9LYE, because of Memorial Day, the next board meeting is May 21<sup>st</sup> Monday at 7:30 PM.

There was no board meeting in April, most of us forgot. Don KC9EQQ, Nora, and Kurt remembered. There were five Mondays in April, board meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month.

The secretary's report was approved by Ron KB9TCX, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob N9JYX.

Publicity & Hamfest: by Kerry AA9SB, Publicity for tonight's meeting was sent to the papers. Hamfest vendor packets are being assembled.

On August 5<sup>th</sup> some vendors will need help setting up, please volunteer.

Kerry AA9SB needs a volunteer for Hamfest committee coordinator.

Hamfest: by Jim KB9CYL, PLEASE buy/sell Hamfest tickets. See Jim KB9CYL for tickets & flyers.

Hamgab: by Steve, KC9OOL, Steve's & Eric's KC9OOM 's e-mails are on the front cover of the Hamgab.

Field Day: by Jim KB9CYL, FD is June 23-24<sup>th</sup> in Worth. There's a FD meeting at the site on Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.

George's call sign N9VOK, will be used for our Field Day weekend GOTA station.

On Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> Kelly KB9ZRM will make dinner. At the June club meeting Jim KB9CYL will give the program "Field Day 2011"

Also, at the June meeting FD pin orders will be taken. Pins are \$5.00 each, payment is due when order is placed. You'll get your pins on the FD weekend.

New Business by Don KC9EQQ, the NATO summit might need hams and our club's trailer on May 19-21<sup>st</sup>.

Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup> at Cenntennial Park in Orland Park MS Walk needs ham volunteers.

Program: October our guest speaker Steve Cooper, he has an orchestra and has stories about the big bands & big band singers.

Adjournment: 9:30 PM by Bob N9JYX, 2<sup>nd</sup> by James KA2DRQ.

Door Pize Winners: Dave N9KDP, Ron KB9TCX.

Raffle Prize Winners: Kerry AA9SB, James KA2DRQ, Brunno K9QLB, Bob N9JYX N9KWG, Jim KB9CY





## CQ Field Day de Jim Riley KB9CYL



Your 2012 Field Day team is set and ready to go. This year's event is at Altman Park, 11600 S. Oketo in Worth. That's about 1/4 mile west of Harlem on 115<sup>th</sup> Street, near the boat launch ramp. Set up begins at 0800 Saturday, June 23. We need all hands on deck to help set get everything ready to go by start time at 1 p.m. local.

If you've never been to a Field Day, you're missing something. If you've never been to a Hamfesters Field Day, you're missing a lot. Not only do we have the best and friendliest FD operators, we have the best FD food anywhere. If you've never operated a HF rig or been involved in a contest, this is your golden opportunity. Rule #1 is: "Everyone who wants to operate, operates." No exceptions.

Speaking of food, Mike W9MCS will be grilling lunch at noon on Saturday. This is another reason

to get setup done in time. You don't want to be fighting with antenna masts or generators while everyone else is chowing down. Kelly KB9ZRM will be providing supper Saturday evening. I've heard glowing reports of her cooking. I'm looking forward to sampling some of it myself. Ed WA9EOL will bring breakfast Sunday morning. There's nothing like a hot breakfast, cooked on site, after a long night of cold, damp, or rainy operating.

As in prior years, our GOTA station will be headed up by Brian W9HLQ, 20 meter CW by Kurt WB9FMC, 40 meter CW by Don K9KNZ, and the trailer station by Joe KA9KBU and Bob N9JYX. New this year will be 40 meter phone by Al N9ZD. Tim KC9POS will take over from John KB9FQB and man the VHF/UHF station along with attempting a satellite contact.

New also this year will be our category: 4A. This will be a big change from years past. New operators will have a leg up on older ops because they won't have to try and forget our previous category.

Still not convinced? Be sure to come to our next meeting. I'll have pictorial evidence of just how great our Field Day is.

Don't forget. We'll be taking orders for Field Day pins at the June meeting. They'll be distributed at Field Day. There will be no orders taken after the meeting

## Hamfest Ticket Sales Jim KB9CYL

For this month's ticket sales information, see last month's Hamgab. Not one ticket was bought or sold at the May meeting. There were none picked up for sale either. That leads me to believe that either no one's going to the fest or no one cares—or both. Please prove me wrong. Pick up a bunch of tickets at the June meeting or just buy some for yourself. There are only two months left till the fest. The time to buy is now.

## Hamfesters VE Testing: By Al Bukowski N9ZD

Hamfesters VE Testing:  
By Al Bukowski N9ZD

Hamfesters Radio club VE's administered FCC Amateur Radio exams May 12, 2012. We had one candidate in which he earned a Technician ticket. Congratulations to the candidate. The VE's who graded these exams were: Gene KB9RNM, Kelvin W9BBQ, Bob N9JYX, Tom KA9ZXN 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 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 a email to [abukowski@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 June 9, 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 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

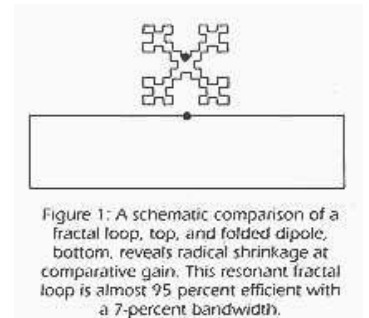
## Editors Ramblings

My daughter Maureen, who many of you know, needed to do a science fair project for 7<sup>th</sup> grade this year. She wanted to do something with cats. Eric had a laser pointer and we were trying to think of a project with cats and laser pointers. Eric and I bought a laser pointer at the Hamfest that could make different patterns and we were thinking about how the cat would respond to different patterns. There was an article about fractals in one of my science magazines and we wondered how cats might react to fractal patterns. Eric pointed out that there were excellent computer programs for generating fractal patterns and it soon became clear, it would be easier to lose the laser pointers, cover some boxes with fractal and non-fractal patterns, put cat food in the boxes and let the cats have at it.

So what does this have to do with Ham radio? Alright, here we go. There is a ham operator named Nathan Cohen W1YW. He is also a mathematician, astronomer and all around smart dude, Harvard at age 17 etc. His early research involved working on antenna systems for radio telescopes. As the story goes, he was at a conference in France and was trying to get his Ham rig to work when an idea occurred to him for a different kind of antenna. Being a mathematician, Cohen was very familiar with Chaos theory and fractal patterns. Basically, a fractal pattern is a self similar pattern than repeats either on a larger or smaller scale. Think of tree branches and how the smallest of branches resembles the largest branch or even the whole tree.

Cohen realized that there might be advantages to antennas based on certain fractal patterns and is rumored to have built the first fractal antenna in his hamshack.

Fractal antennas consist of many self repeating patterns. This forms a virtual combination of capacitors and inductors so an antenna can have many different resonances depending on the self repeating patterns. This allows for “very broadband and multiband frequency responses”. As it turns out, the electrical length of the antenna can be much longer than the actual physical length. Now we're talking small antennas that work in cell phones. I hope Mr. Cohen has a lot of patents.



So it turns out cats, fractals and ham radio are related. Fractals can be used by hams to make efficient antennas and they can be used by 7<sup>th</sup> graders for a nice science fair project. It turns out cats do prefer to eat in boxes that are covered with fractal patterns.

I used Wikipedia as a source so some facts are questionable, but the story is still good. The information about fractal antennas if from a pdf by Nathan Cohen **Fractals New era in Military Antenna Design**. Google Fractal Antennas and you'll find it. It's worth the read. (By the way Maureen got a gold at the state science fair in May.)

BARBARA AND  
HER DAD MATT K9MS



KERRY  
AA9SB

BRUNO  
K9QKB



Nora KC9MLV and  
her pal Barbara



### Hamfesters Monthly Raffle

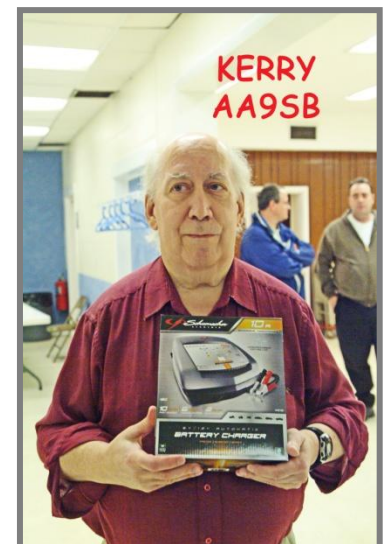
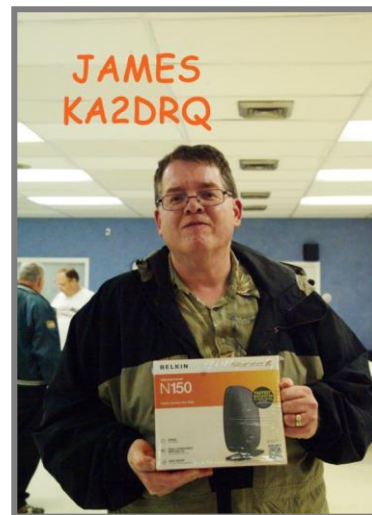
We try to do the best we can for prizes for the monthly Hamfest meetings. We however have a limited budget we can work from. We would encourage all members to contribute an item for the monthly raffle. It might be something that would be useful to others, but is no longer of use to you. It could also 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.

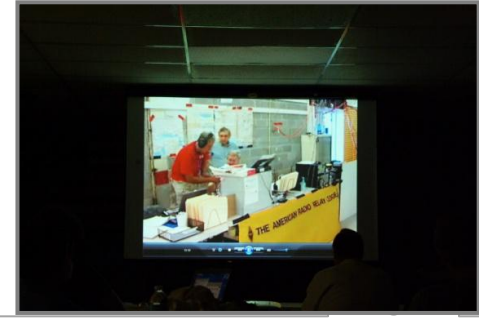
Feel free to contact me by email at

kb9yxh@yahoo.com or call me at (708) 429-4511.

73' Bob Richter KB9YXH Raffle Chairman

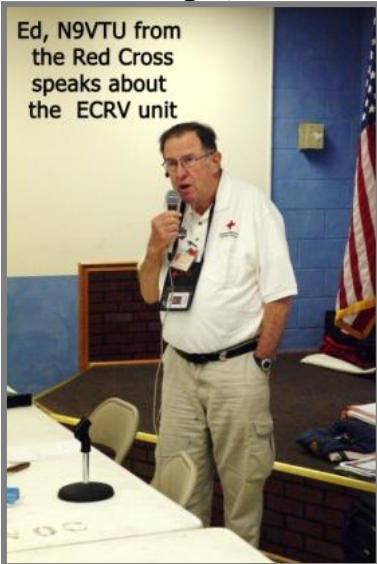








Hamgab, June 2012





## Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 102

Bedford Park, IL 60499-0102

[www.Hamfesters.org](http://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 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 & Tom KA9ZXN are 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.*