



# Ham Gab

Next meeting: August 3rd

August 2012

PO Box 102  
Bedford Park, IL  
60499-0102

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

## Special Interest Articles

CQ Field Day pg. 4

Hamfest Update pg. 7

## August Birthdays

\_John W9BNR

Richard KA9BUK

Jack W9NJB

Lenny KB9OUQ

Bill W9ZJ

Matthew KC9JXC

Nora KC9MLV

## 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

Kerry AA9SB

James KA2DRQ

## Hamgab Editors

Steve & Eric

KC9OOL & KC9OOM

Scapstone@aol.com



Thanks to all of the Hamfesters who made this year's Field Day such a great success. See Jim's full report on page 4.

## Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club 78th Annual Hamfest

**Sunday August 5, 2012**

Gates open at 6 AM, commercial exhibit buildings open at 8 AM.

Hamfesters are needed. We need your help to make this Hamfest successful for the club. Read Kerry's column on page 7 and come to the next meeting for more details. We also need your wallets.

Support the vendors and buy that special something you've always been looking for. Download the flyer and get more information at the Hamfesters Website. You can also contact Kerry AA9SB

[kw\\_nelson@earthlink.net](mailto:kw_nelson@earthlink.net) Phone: 708/335-4574

THE RAFFLE COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR  
ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER RAFFLE. PLEASE  
SEE WHAT YOU CAN DONATE TO THE CLUB. IT  
DOESN'T HAVE TO BE RADIO RELATED.

# THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ

AUGUST 2012

AN



Ron Kalat KB9TCX. What can I say about you? Except Thanks to you and your fellow Vets for that matter too! Ron, our fellow Hamfester club member and a Vet, was instrumental in arranging to have the McDonald- Linn Chicago Ridge VFW Post 177, (which he is a member of), Color and Honor Guard present Colors at our July 6<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting. By the way, Ron is a member of same said Color and Honor Guard too. This is our third year of having the Post be part of our Fourth of July Veteran Salute and picnic and we are so honored by their presence and wish them well and that they return to our club's Independence Day event for years to come.

I wish to thank everyone for their help in cooking food, prepping the room, setting up the music, and showing all our visitors a most warm welcome to that very special evening. We are one very progressive club of whose members can be counted to pitch in to keep our club one of the most respected and exciting Amateur Radio Clubs out there. With that in mind, I as your President am compelled to ask your help in coming out to Hamfest on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> and wear two hats as a member coming out. Hat one: Apply for one of many jobs, (no experience necessary, on the job training and fun!), that need to be filled that day from ticket takers to set-up to security and more! Hat two: Go out there and support the many vendors present at our Hamfest by buying their goods and making them feel at home with our unique down home friendliness, a trait of this club that has been part of this club for over 78 years!

So, how do you get involved? Come to the Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> regular Hamfester meeting and listen to Kerry AA9SB present his program on what we all can do to make Hamfest successful. Remember folks- This is **the** event that brings in the most revenue for our club and helps sustain it through the year.

The coffee we drink at each meeting, the donuts we enjoy each meeting, the Special Program presenters we have each month, the Christmas Party, the Hall we meet in and I can go on and on, but you catch where I am coming from.. .... Those things just mentioned are greatly subsidized by Hamfest and need your endorsement, your muscle, your sweat and your skills and talents to make it work. So I hope I see many a hand rise when we ask for your support on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. And if you cannot make it on the Third, just show up at Hamfest and we will be delighted to put you to work- work that you will enjoy because you will be sharing it with your fellow club members!

***Back on the beat: Friday September 7<sup>th</sup> will be a great night with Steve Peters W9KXT as he presents his program entitled: "Eyes to the Skies. A Ham who flies Jets and other machines"! Sounds like a heckuva program, but wait there's more about that night! But I will just have to keep you in suspense for now..... See you on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.***

***73's Everybody!***

***Don KC9EQQ***

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.

## Board meeting minutes – Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting June 25, 2012, meeting began at 7:30 PM.

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Mike W9MCS, Kerry AA9SA, Kurt WB9FMC, Nora KC9MLV.

Visitors: Joe KA9KBU, Mark WB9GNC, thanks to Mark for his help at Field Day, the many photos and all the rest.

Health & Welfare: Kerry AA9SA dental work continues, Nora KC9MLV reports that Gregg continues to have pain. Joe KA9KBU-dad is getting a feeding tube. We wish our friend's a speedy recovery.

President's report: Report by Don KC9EQQ, thanks to everyone who helped make FD a huge success.

Field Day: Report by Jim KB9CYL, 36 club members attended Field Day. There were 1200 contacts and 1600 bonus points. Field Day rules for the trailer; no cell phones & no talking except for the operator. No talking near the trailer.

Special thanks to those who kept us fed: Mike W9MCS, Kelly KB9ZRM, Helen (Kurt's WB9FMC YL), Ed WA9EOL & everyone who brought treats.

Treasure's Report: Report by Ed WA9EOL, approved by Jim KB9CYL, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kurt WB9FMC.

Publicity & Hamfest; Report by Kerry, publicity was sent out for Field Day. Publicity will be sent out for the July 6<sup>th</sup> picnic & meeting, and for the Hamfest on Aug 5<sup>th</sup>.

Hamfest vendors continue to register to sell their wares at our Hamfest. Hamfest fliers can be down loaded at our website. Please buy/sell Hamfest tickets.

New Business: Joe KB9KBU- we need an antenna tuner for the trailer.

The board voted to give the Chicago Ridge VFW a \$100.00 donation, their color guard will present the flag at our meeting/picnic on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Adjournment: 8:45 PM approved by Jim KB9CYL, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed WA9EOL



## General meeting minutes – Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Salute to Veterans meeting and picnic July 6, 2012 meeting began at 7:35 PM.

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL Ed WA9EOL Patti KC9LYE Rich N9UNQ.

President Don KC9EQQ asked that normal business be suspended approved by Bob N9JYX, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim KB9CYL.

Also, please see Jim KB9CYL, buy/sell Hamfest tickets and take fliers. Our Hamfest is August 5<sup>th</sup>.

There were 36 members and visitors here tonight. The actual high temp today was 102 degrees!

Our hot dog and hamburger chefs were Mike W9MCS and Joe KA9KBU. Great work guys!

## Hamgab, August 2012

Our picnic is always held indoors, thanks everyone who brought potluck. This year we had a snow cone machine-a great idea to beat the heat.

There was a posting of the colors by the Chicago Ridge VFW. Hamfesters member Ron Kalat KB9TCX is a member of the color guard. Hamfesters W9AA presented the VFW a donation of \$100.00. After the colors were posted we said the pledge of allegiance. We listened to a recording of actor John Wayne reading the pledge and a poem about America was part of the recording.

Adjournment of the meeting was at 7:45 PM.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Salute to Veterans Picnic began. Don KC9EQQ & Nora KC9MLV took a group photo of the veterans.

Door prize winners were Lenny KB9OUQ, Mark WB9GNC, & Jim KB9CYL.

## CQ Field Day de Jim Riley KB9CYL

Field Day 2012 went into the books as another success for Hamfesters Radio Club and the 37 intrepid members who spent part of their weekend in Altman Park in Worth. The weather, a little humid at times, cooperated. Despite the threat of rain, only a few drops fell but that's the story of this whole summer. There were a few glitches including interference between stations and locked bathrooms but all were overcome in due course. The bands didn't cooperate Saturday but came alive overnight and Sunday morning to allow us to turn in a decent score. A full breakdown follows.

Our first 100 bonus points came from Kerry Nelson AA9SB who got us some publicity in the May 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the Southwest News Herald. Way to go, Kerry.

Our second 100 bonus points were scored by Joe Kratky KA9KBU as he was able to copy the PSK-31 FD bulletin from the ARRL. I can't say enough about Joe. Not only did he do his usual masterful maintenance of the trailer but he was able to determine the cause of our problems with the trailer's folded dipole over the winter. It worked just fine this year.

On site first Saturday morning as usual was George N9VOK who did his assigned job of making sure the sun came up. Also on site before the chairman got there were Brian Davis W9HLQ and Ed Egan WB9STB raring to

go on the GOTA station. Others began filtering in and setup began.

Tim Szymanski KC9POS drove up in his modified Dodge pickup truck with the Vietnam-style communications shack on the back, Bob Koran N9JYX brought the trailer, Don Sommerfeld K9KNZ got to work on the 40-meter CW station as did Kurt Pawlikowski WB9FMC on the 20-meter CW position, and Al Bukowski N9ZD put up his 20-meter phone/digital tent.

Before long, setup was done and it was time to eat. Mike Serapin treated us to pulled pork sandwiches. We also feasted on Helen Pawlikowski's meatballs.

After a brief meeting where your FD chair introduced the starting operators via the club's new PA system, it was time to begin. George led off the N9VOK GOTA station with 20 contacts good for 20 bonus points. Then several scouts who were patiently standing by got their chance. They did pretty well for newbies. Later on, my 8-year-old grandson, Jacob Gioia made some GOTA contacts too.

The highlight of the afternoon was a visit by ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely W9GIG and Deputy Director Kermit Carlson W9XA. They said they were most impressed by our operation. Thanks to everyone for looking busy when they showed up. Joining them

## Hamgab, August 2012

was Illinois State Representative Chuck Krezwick WV9C. The three of them got into such deep discussions right outside the GOTA tent we had to keep asking them to tone it down so we could hear the radio. Politicians are known for QRM. Making contacts is what Field Day is all about, after all.

Dinner was served right on time as Bob and Kelly Harris, N9RAT and KB9ZRM, respectively, pulled up in Bob Richter KB9YXH's car which was crammed with food. The trunk was full as was half the rear passenger seat. The other half was filled with N9RAT sampling on the way. Don't deny it, Bob. We gorged on creamed chicken sandwiches, mac and cheese, green bean casserole, and potatoes au gratin. Anybody with room enjoyed cake with the club logo in the frosting.

Nighttime operations went on as usual. Patti Gulick KC9LYE ran the Night Patrol from the GOTA tent. Herb Majer KC9OOK worked the overnight shift at the GOTA station.

In the morning we were treated with the usual yummy breakfast cooked on site and served by Ed Broniarczyk WA9EOL. There's nothing like eating breakfast in the great outdoors among the people you've spent the night with.

All too soon it was time to tear down and enter another Field Day into the pantheon of Hamfester history. The

site is reserved for next year. We'll see you all there.

Kurt WB9FMC took top honors in the CW category with 219 contacts. Joe KA9KBU led phone with 188. In second place was Eric Hennenfent KC9OOM with 129. Eric did yeoman service, operating under difficult conditions. Al N9ZD got 83 digital contacts on 20 meters. The GOTA station added a record 270 contacts to the total including 64 CW calls logged by Ray Paschke NW9S.

On a special note, it was great seeing Matt Sobczak K9MS pounding brass with Kurt in the 20-meter tent.

It was nice to have Mark Nelson WB9GNC all the way from Montana to help out. It was also good having Patti's brother Tom with us. Tom, ya gotta get that license.

Other club members who participated but are not mentioned above or listed below as GOTA operators are: Pat Shalloo KB9KRT, Bob Fleischmann N9KWG, Michael Cichetti KC9OPV, Don Pointer KC9EQQ, Wayne Strickland W9BBB, Dave Bukowski N9KPD, Ben Norkus KC9CXT, Mike Kiley WA9ZPM, John Derkacy, KC9OOO, Ron Kalat, KB9TCX, Ron Carlson KN9ZBN, Rich Schneider KA9HMY, and new member Collette Renk K9LKT who made her first HF contacts at the GOTA station.

Here is the breakdown as sent to the ARRL:

| Score Summary: | CW  | Digital | Phone | Total |
|----------------|-----|---------|-------|-------|
| Total QSOs     | 472 | 83      | 614   | 1169  |
| Total Points   | 944 | 166     | 614   | 1724  |
| Claimed Score  |     |         |       | 3,348 |

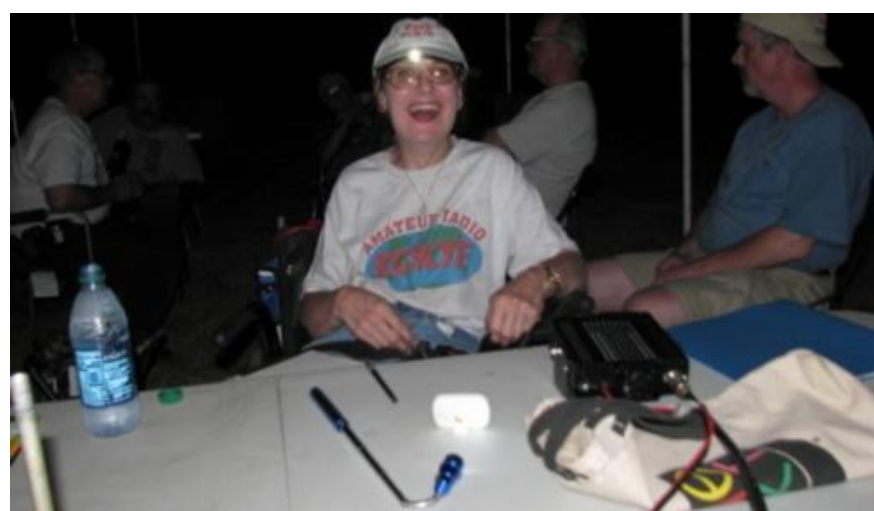
|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Call Used:         | W9AA                  |
| GOTA Station Call: | N9VOK                 |
| ARRL/RAC Section   | IL                    |
| Class              | 4A                    |
| Participants       | 77                    |
| Club/Group Name    | Hamfesters Radio Club |
| Power Sources      | Generator, Solar      |
| Power Multiplier   | 2X                    |

| Bonus Points:                                |       |
|--|-------|
| 100% Emergency power                         | 400   |
| Media Publicity                              | 100   |
| Set-up in Public Place                       | 100   |
| Information Booth                            | 100   |
| W1AW Field Day Message                       | 100   |
| Natural power QSOs completed                 | 100   |
| Site Visit by invited elected official       | 100   |
| Site Visit by invited served agency official | 100   |
| Youth participation                          | 100   |
| Youth operators=5                            |       |
| Youth participants=7                         |       |
| GOTA Bonus                                   | 160   |
| Submitted via the Web                        | 50    |
| Educational activity                         | 100   |
| Total Bonus Points                           | 1,510 |

# Hamgab, August 2012

## QSO Breakdown

| Band      | CW<br>QSOs | CW<br>PWR(W) | Digital<br>QSOs | Digital<br>PWR(W) | Phone<br>QSOs | Phone<br>PWR(W) |
|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 160m      |            |              |                 |                   |               |                 |
| 80m       |            |              |                 |                   | 296           | 100             |
| 40m       | 189        | 100          |                 |                   |               |                 |
| 20m       | 219        | 100          | 83              | 100               | 27            | 100             |
| 15m       |            |              |                 |                   | 85            | 100             |
| 10m       |            |              |                 |                   |               |                 |
| 6m        |            |              |                 |                   |               |                 |
| 2m        |            |              |                 |                   |               |                 |
| 1.25      |            |              |                 |                   |               |                 |
| Other     |            |              |                 |                   |               |                 |
| Satellite |            |              |                 |                   |               |                 |
| GOTA      | 64         | 100          |                 |                   | 206           | 100             |
| TOTAL     | 472        |              | 83              |                   | 614           |                 |



## Hamfest Update – August 2012 Kerry AA9SB

You've all heard by now (I hope) that we are going back to a 2-day hamfest. So set-up volunteers: Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 4, and set your clocks for EARLY.

Also, Dave Bukowski, N9KPD, is now our volunteer recruitment coordinator. We thank him for taking on that responsibility. He'll also be helping John Levickas, AB9JW, set-up coordinator, with a new layout map for the vendor table set-up with updated vendor map info (with John, of course, remaining as set-up subcommittee coordinator). We'll have more updates on this along with everything else at the August meeting.

Also Mike Brost, WA9FTS, contacted me about creating a page on our website for an online request for hamfest flyers. I passed this along to Brian W9HLQ, and Brian kindly added it to our website which should help the distribution of our hamfest flyers.

Thanks for the suggestion, Mike.

Thanks also to Brian for following up on this.

We've received a few initial table reservation forms with checks for tables and extra tickets. So we're getting the first tables sold. It starts slowly as always.

We've also received double confirmations that our Central Division Vice-Director, Kermit Carlson, W9XA, and Central Division Director, Dick Isely, W9GIG, will attend our fest.

And last but not least, if you're going to a hamfest, be sure to bring the some flyers 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 them!

*--Kerry, AA9SB, Hamfest Committee chairperson*

## Hamfest ticket sales de Jim Riley

Back in the sixties The Byrds, paraphrasing the book of Ecclesiastes, told us, "to everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under

heaven." In our case the season is hamfest, the time is the August meeting, and the purpose is turning in your cash and unsold tickets. I hope

## Hamgab, August 2012

there is a lot of cash and few tickets turned in, so you “birds” better get selling.

As of the Hamgab deadline there were 42 tickets sold, but there are still 235 still out there. If we sell 158 of those, we'll have the fairgrounds paid for. If you haven't bought your ticket yet, there will be plenty of them available at the August meeting.

The race for top ticket seller is still a two-entrant competition. Kerry AA9SB has sold 3 tickets, I've sold 39. Remember, I don't consider a ticket sold until I have cash in hand.

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** do **NOT** bring cash and unsold advance tickets to the Hamfest. It's confusing enough handling cash from a dozen gate sellers without having to handle money from advance sellers, too. If you can't make the August meeting, send me a check made out to the club. My rebuilt heart thanks you.

## Hamfesters VE Testing: By Al Bukowski N9ZD

Hamfesters Radio club VE's were prepared to administer FCC Amateur Radio exams on July 14, 2012. However we had no candidates at this session. The VE's who were present: Gene KB9RNM, Kelvin W9BBQ, Tim AA9BV, Bob N9JYX and myself N9ZD. Many thanks to all the VE's who have given the dedicated time at the Exam sessions.

**Special Note:** *Our next test session will be held on Sunday 0800 hrs August 6, 2012 at the Hamfesters Hamfest, Will County Fair Grounds. Peotone, Ill. AND the following Saturday August 11, 2012 at Oak Forest City Hall 15440 S. Central Ave. Oak Forest, IL 60452.*

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

73's AL – N9ZD

### Hamfesters Monthly Raffle

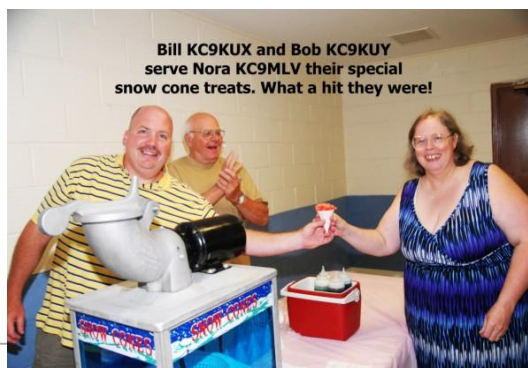
We try to do the best we can for prizes for the monthly Hamfest meetings. We however have a limited budget we can work from. We would encourage all members to contribute an item for the monthly raffle. It might be something that would be useful to others, but is no longer of use to you. It could also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

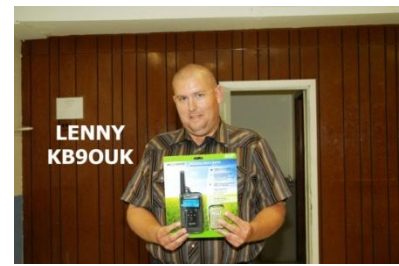
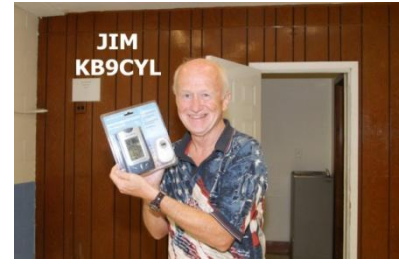
This is one other small source of income for the club. Your prize doesn't have to be electronic in nature; it can be any- thing even if it doesn't deal with ham radio. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of making a prize donation and hope to hear from you very soon.

Feel free to contact me by email at

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

73' Bob Richter KB9YXH Raffle Chairman



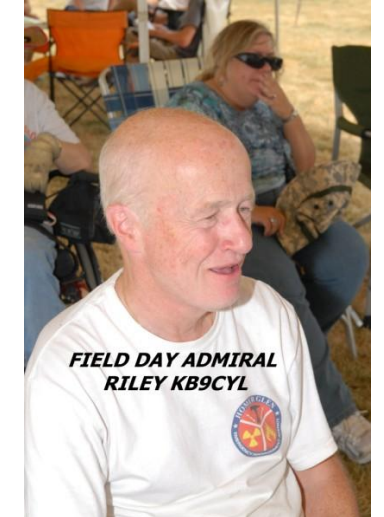




## Hamgab, August 2012



## Hamgab, August 2012



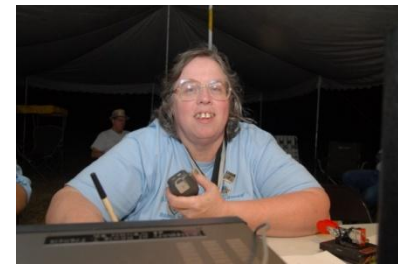
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# Hamgab, August 2012



# Hamgab, August 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.*