

Ham Gab

Next meeting: February 1st February 2013

PO Box 102 Bedford Park, IL 60499-0102 www.hamfesters.org Special Interest Articles What Are We Waiting For? This EWE Follows My Lead pg. 8

February Birthdays

John KA9BUM Ben KC9CXT James KA9GUC Joseph KA9KBU **Robert W9TOE** Robert KC9KUY

Officers

President-Don KC9EQQ Vice President –Jim KB9CYL Secretary-Patty KC9LYE Treasurer- ED WA9EOL SGT at Arms-Rich N9UNQ Trustee-Bruno K9QKB **Board Members** Nora KC9MLV Steve W9KXT

Kurt WB9FMC Mike W9MCS John WB9JTS

Cathy KC9NRH

Hamgab Editors

Steve & Eric

KC9OOL & KC9OOM Scapstone@aol.com Hope you enjoyed last month's meeting and the video on the first lunar landing. Don't miss this month's program by Al N9ZD about the U505 submarine. It truly was a remarkable story and played a major role in the final victory by the allies. Also, don't forget that the White Elephant Sale will be in March.











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

THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ FEBRUARY 2013

One of the most significant periods of time in our Nation's history no doubt is that period of time from 1941 to 1945 when World War Two was taking place. Sacrifices by civilians, Servicemen and Servicewomen alike were apparent at every turn, whether it was state side or abroad, the people of that era pitched in to make Peace and freedom a reality for all

those who yearned for it- and wanted to keep it.

So, imagine what it must have felt like for the men aboard the USS Chatelain as it was just off the coast of West Africa on June 4th, 1944, after releasing Depth Charges into the sea, which ultimately forced out of the deep sea The Dreaded German Submarine U-505. The sacrifices of the crew of the Chatelain in spending weeks on the Ocean, seeing the battles they must have witnessed, the comrades they must have lost, and the lonely nights under the vast stars above the sea while they were thinking of loved ones at homes surely paid off to some degree upon their capturing of one of the most dreaded instruments of death - The U505.

But there is so much more to the story. SO MUCH MORE. By the way, the U505 as of 2014 will be celebrating its 60th anniversary at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Now, this is where my part of the story stops.

On Friday, February 1st, 2013, our fellow Hamfester member Al Bukowski (N9ZD) will be our guest speaker and his topic will be all about the U505 and the unique role our club has played with the U505 in the past. I have heard many stories about the U505 over the years as my being a member of our club, and I anxiously await Al's presentation to hear as Paul Harvey would have said, "The rest of the story". Join me please in what should be one interesting program. Know any Vets? How about bringing them with you? And while you're at it- tell them thanks for *their sacrifices*. And if you are a vet, thank you for *your sacrifices too*.

Back on the beat:

The one comment we get the most from visitors to our club's meeting is that they are impressed with the overall fun tone of our monthly get-togethers. You will often hear my dear friend Jim Riley KB9CYL and I exchange one liners at each other



back and forth while the long suffering Ed WA9EOL our Treasurer and Patty KC9LYE our Secretary sit next to Jim and I, wondering what they got into! But it's all in good fun. I believe that the board sets the tone for the group. Yes, we take our work seriously, but we recognize the element of fun and how important it is to keeping our members comfortable, relaxed and feeling right at home when you come to a meeting. If you leave our meetings a little more informed, have made a new friend, and shared some laughs and good coffee with each other, then we, Jim, Ed, Patty, Kurt, Steve, John, Mike, Nora, Cathy, Rich, Bruno and myself all as members of the board are doing our job- making sure that you are satisfied with what I call: THE HAMFESTERS EXPERIENCE! Come and experience with us won't you?

Last note: March is White Elephant sale time! Bring those goodies to sell and some too! I just hope that night, there won't be snow on my shoe!

73's Everybody!

Don KC9EQQ

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.

Board meeting minutes – Patti, KC9LYE

HAMFESTERS RADIO CLUB

Board Meeting Minutes,

26 November 2012:

President Don Pointer called the meeting to order at 1932 hours.

Officers in Attendance: Don Pointer KC9EQQ, Jim

Riley KB9CYL, Ed Broniarczyk WA9EOL

Directors in Attendance: Nora Pointer KC9MLV, Kurt Pawlikowski WB9FMC, Kerry Nelson AA9SB

President's Report:

Don reported that he attended the funeral of Matt Sobczak, K9MS, a 63-year member of the club. His family reported that they were glad to see the great turnout at his wake and funeral. They will be invited to the Christmas party as guests of the club.

Health and Welfare:

No report.

There was no vote to approve the board minutes from the October meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Given by Ed, WA9EOL. There was no change from the last general meeting.

Standing Committee Reports:

Program: Don will possibly be showing a video on Apollo 11 at the January meeting.

Hamfest: Kerry AA9SB reported that he's been looking into a new venue for the Hamfest. There was discussion about other possible new venues, too.

Field Day: Jim KB9CYL

reported that he spoke with

Matt's family and his call will be used for the GOTA station in 2013.



Don reminded everyone that the Christmas party is December 7 at Papa Joe's in Orland Park. Jim reported 47 tickets sold.

New Business:

Kerry proposed making the Hamfest chair a voting member of the board. After much discussion it was decided that Curt will look into the legalities and what effect it will have on the constitution.

Jim mentioned that the club trailer may have to be moved from the back of his building. There was discussion on new storage possibilities.

Meeting adjourned at 2048 hours.

AES Superfest 2013

Your Club is Invited to Participate

WHEN: Friday, April 5th (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) &

Saturday April 6th (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

WHERE: AES Milwaukee, 5710 W. Good Hope Road (All inside)

WE PROVIDE: Free tables with electrical hook-up in a large area where you can interact with other clubs and recruit new members while you enjoy the show.

There is NO Admission, your entire membership (and others) are invited to attend FREE!

We will have a large participation from **major Ham equipment manufacturers**, clubs and organizations. There will be VE testing, interesting forums, a fox hunt, prizes, the Gordon West show and more!

CLUB ACCESS/SET-UP:

Friday 4/5: 9:00 a.m., show opens at 2:00 p.m. Saturday 4/6: 8:00 a.m., show opens at 8:30 p.m.

INFORMATION & SPACE RESERVATION:

Club Representative, please contact Ray Grenier, K9KHW at AES A.S.A.P. (414) 375-1162 or 414-881-3528 (cell), or e-mail rayk9khw@aol.com

General meeting minutes – Patti, KC9LYE

Jan. 4, 2013 Meeting began at 7:45 PM

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

The new board members were introduced; Cathy KC9NRH, & Steve W9KXT.

Tonight there were; 41 members, our visitor was; Dolores Gassmere, 2 new club members; Alex Fields KC9WOT, Jake Fields KC9WOX, & Ben Fields KC9WOS. Alex, Jake, & Ben, along with their scout leader Linas KC9PCP, were part of our Field Day 2012.

President's Report: By Don KC9EQQ, presented Bob & Kelly Harris N9RAT, and KB9ZRM, with the Hamfester of the Year Award for 2012.

There was a moment of silence for the victims at Sandy Hook School in Newtown, CT.

Health & Welfare: report by Joe KA9KBU, Mark WB9GNC, he's from Montana. The past two years at Hamfester's Field Days Mark has taken photos. Mark's son Roger, KD7CSL, was killed. He was in the military, serving state side.

Minutes: The club minutes for Nov. 2012 were approved by John KC9OOO, 2nd by Bob N9JYX.

Treasurer's Report: By Ed WA9EOL, The annual Christmas Party was Wonderful.

It was held again at Papa Joe's in Orland Park, we will return in 2013. There were 52 paid members that night. The party was dedicated to Matt Sobczak K9MS, who became a silent key on Nov.22, 2012. Matt's family were our guests at the party.

Bob KB9YXH, presented Bob N9RAT, and Kelly KB9ZRM, with the Hamfesters of Year Award for 2012. Bob N9RAT, and Eric KC9OOM, each won the \$100.00 cash prize.

Maureen Hennenfent (Eric's sister) was one of five ladies to win \$20.00.

Hamfest news: our Aug. 4, 2013 hamfest will be held

at the Will County Fairgrounds. The setup will be on Sat. Aug. 3rd. These two days will be more expensive. The Treasurer's report was approved by Steve W9KXT, & 2nd by John KC9OOO.

Membership & website: By Brian W9HLQ, Thanks, to all who've paid their dues. Our club's on-line roster now functions in real time, thanks to the efforts of Gene W9PNG. There's a 6 months grace period for those who aren't paid up, there will be a letter, & an email. Then, names will be removed from the roster. Programs: Tonight a DVD about NASA and the Moon Landing (part 1), narrated by Walter Cronkite.

Program: Feb. 1st: Al N9ZD, The U505 WWII submarine March: White Elephant sale, doors open @ 6:00 PM.

Awards Chairmen: By John AB9JW, awards will be presented at the Feb.1st meeting.

Field Day: By Jim KB9CYL, he needs 2012 FD photos. **New Business:** By Don KC9EQQ, he would like to see new faces taking part in Hamfesters; Field Day, Hamfest, etc.

Don has an emergency contact folder, please fill out a contact form, or update your information.

Kurt WB9FMC, would like volunteers to help with the Centennial Bike event in Aug. 2013.

There were hamfest tickets given out tonight. Bob N9JYX, is going Feb.16th Sat. in Wisconsin. Steve W9KXT, is going to the Jan. 20th Wheaton hamfest. Enjoy, hope you find cool stuff.

Adjournment: @ 9:50 PM Jim KB9CYL, 2nd by Bob N9JYX.

Door Prize Winners: Bob N9JYX, Alex KC9WOX,

Dolores Gassmere

Raffle Prize Winners: Dolores Gassmere, Patti KC9LYE,

Bob KC9KWY 3xs, Joe KA9KBU.

Hello HAMFESTERS RADIO CLUB,

My name is Donnie - KC9VFQ. I am representing the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association located in Terre Haute, IN.

Reason for this email is we have an upcoming Hamfest in March and we would like to ask if you could pass the word along to your Members of your Club during your Club meetings or your Club Nets. I have attached A Flyer to this Email with the info of our Hamfest. If ANY of your members have equipment they would like to sale at our Hamfest they can contact our Club President / Hamfest Chairman Chuck - W9COD at hamfest@w9uuu.org and reserve a table. Tables are FREE to anyone wanting to sale equipment at our Event.

If you have an upcoming Event you would like to pass on, feel free to visit www.w9uuu.org and list it on our E-Mail Discussion Group at the bottom of the home page. Thank You for your time and help.

73, DE Donnie - KC9VFQ and The Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association



THE WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION
DRESENTS:

PRESENTS:

2013 Terre Haute Hamfest & Computer Expo

Saturday -- March 9, 2013

Dede Activity Center Indiana State University

(39° 28' 16" N, 87° 24' 39" W)

Indoor Event - Rain or Shine!

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM EST

(Vendor setup begins at 6:00 AM)

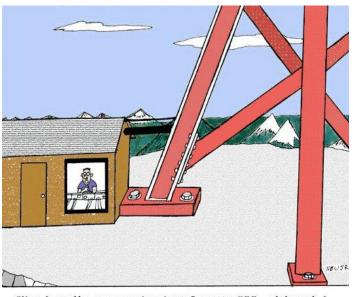
Admission \$7.00 (12 and under free)

Free Tables

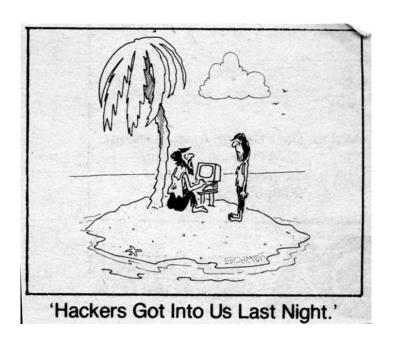
Hourly Door Prize Drawings
Free VE Testing Session at 11:00 AM

Talk-In: K9IKQ/R, 146.685 MHz, PL 151.4 Hz

For More Information about the W.V.A.R.A. please visit www.w9uuu.org



"Yes I really am running just 5 watts QRP...although I suppose I do have an above average antenna system..."



Hamfesters VE Testing: By Al Bukowski N9ZD

 Hamfesters Radio club VE's administered FCC Amateur Radio exams January 12, 2013 at the Oak Forest City Hall 15440 S. Central Ave. Oak Forest, IL, 60452.
 We had four candidates, Three



passed the Technician Ticket and one passed the General exam. Congratulations to the candidates and hope to hear them on the air. The VE's who helped administering and grading the exams were, Tim AA9BV, Ron N9STU, Gene KB9RNM, Bob N9JYX, Ron WB9JYZ and myself N9ZD.

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- Amateur Radio examination, please note that Hamfesters conducts FCC authorized 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, II 60452. Oak Forest City Hall Doors open at 9:00 AM. We begin testing at 9:30 AM Sharp. Enter through the main entrance and then go to the left to the Chamber Room or look for the Amateur Radio Testing exam signs. 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
- Our next test session will be held on Saturday February 9, 2013.

- Very important: Please remember to bring the following items with ou to any exam session: The appropriate fee (currently \$15) for the test.
- We urge you to bring exact amount
 of cash. Please bring your picture ID, the original
 and a copy of your Amateur Radio license (if
 licensed), a pen, pencil, and calculator if you
 would like to use one (all memories must be
 cleared). It is very important to have your Social
 Security Number, or if you have been issued an
 FRN (Federal Registration Number), please use
 that in place of your SSN because without either
 your SSN or FRN, the FCC will not process your
 application. If you are upgrading, it is essential

to bring your CSCE and a copy showing proof of

recent passed exam if not already processed by

- If you have any Questions regarding our test session or
- Questions about upgrading, please contact mevia email at: N9ZD@ARRL.net.
- Again The test fee is still \$15.00 (cash only -- no credit cards or checks).

73's AL - N9ZD

the FCC.

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

Editors Ramblings

What are we waiting for?

Unfortunately, we were unable to attend the January meeting, but the video about the first moon landing got me thinking about what happens next with our current space program.

On December 17, 1903, Orville Wright flew for 125 feet. Twenty four years later in 1927, Charles Lindbergh made the first solo transatlantic flight, a distance of 3,610 miles. Thirty years later in 1957, the Sputnik satellite orbited the earth 1400 times traveling a distance of 4.4 million miles. Twelve years later, Neil Armstrong traveled 238,900 miles to reach the moon. Forty two years later in 2011, the space shuttle program ended. Are we done? Should we send a probe or two out to Mars every few years, maybe fly around an asteroid every once in a while and call it a day? Is there a point to anything more than that?

Is there life out there? Surely this would be a question worth answering. There may be life out there and it could be right in our own solar system. We're not going to find little green men, but we know microbial life can exist in the most extreme places. Life exists at the bottom of the ocean where there is no oxygen and there is no sunlight. The organisms can survive from the small amount of energy that flows from the thermal vents on the ocean floor. Life exists in the underwater lakes in the arctic in an environment that was once thought to be too extreme for any living organism.

Liquid water, organic molecules and energy, these are the ingredients of life and they exist throughout our solar system. The moons of Jupiter, Io and Ganymede, have long been known to have icy exteriors and very likely have organic molecules left over from the early days of the formation of the solar system, but these places are far

from the sun so they must be cold dead forbidden worlds, right? As it turns out, as they orbit Jupiter, they are tugged and pulled by Jupiter and the



other moons of Jupiter. They end up bending and bulging in such a way that they are heated up. It is the same process by which a wire gets hot when you keep bending it. This process is known as tidal friction. It is now known that these moons are warm enough to have liquid oceans under their icy crust. Enceladus, a satellite of Saturn is especially intriguing. It is known to have actual geysers of water spewing from its surface. Even the asteroid Vesta is thought to have water-ice under its surface. NASA has purposely kept its probes away from it so that it could not be accidently contaminated with earthly organisms. Water, organic molecules, and energy, all of the ingredients for life are out there.

Although it seems unlikely there is current life on Mars, the Curiosity Rover is digging up some evidence that there may have been ancient life on Mars. It has sent back some astounding pictures of the Martian landscape. Could humans live there someday?

We have had some incredible benefits from our space program. Many of the devices we have today, GPS, cell phones, and pacemakers are all offshoots of technologies developed for the space program. Countries such as China and India are expanding their space programs. In order to be the economic and technological leaders of the world, we need a robust space program. We owe it to our children. We have or can develop the technologies we need to get to these other worlds and answer one of the most profound questions of humanity: Is there life on other worlds? It seems to me that instead of having last flights, we need to be having first flights. Instead of shutting it down, it is time to ramp it up. In other words, what are we waiting for?

This EWE Follows My Lead

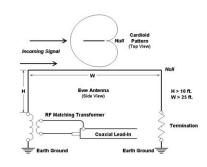
Many times over the years I have heard stories, about getting on 160 meters, that it requires not only a good transmit antenna, but also a good receive antenna. Sometimes a story doesn't always present all the facts. It's time to test that theory. Since many of the older rigs out there required an external coax relay to switch between the transmit and receive antenna (or antennas), newer rigs have an RCA jack on the back for a receive only antenna, making life so much easier!

Now the BIG question. What do I connect to it? A lack of real estate rules out a 500 foot long beverage. Compact loops are very narrow banded, limiting how fast I can move up and down the band without retuning. A pennant is a nice start, but I wanted something easier to build, install and use. So what is left? That's when I heard Will, K9FO, mention a EWE. I doubt very much that he was referring to the Old English term describing sheep, so it had to be something else.

[Editor's note: this type of antenna was described first in the year 1995 by the American radio amateur Floyd Koontz. He developed the EWE particularly for the application on 80m and 160m. In accordance with the specification of Koontz I copied the 80m version. By the way, "Ewe" is the English word for a female sheep (just an information to all non English native speakers), which is pronounced like the letter "U". Koontz obviously used a phonetic similarity as designation and alluded thereby to the form of the antenna, an upside down "U".]

What I found, was a simple antenna made of a length of wire, a 900 to 1200 Ohm resistor, some 75 ohm coax and a balun. The wire, coax and resistor are common items I had laying around. The balun was a different story, but I will get to that later.

Now comes the disclaimer. This is, by all means, not an optimized design or construction. But, it does work, and is better than what I was using. So lets get started.



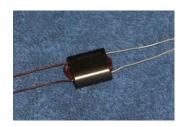
A basic EWE needs two non-conducting vertical supports at least ten feet tall and somewhere between 25 and 60 feet apart (Figure 1). Two trees in my side yard filled that requirement. The ones in the back yard didn't work well because of the aluminum gutters on the house, running parallel to the antenna and less than 15 feet away, severely degraded the performance (So much for Plan A).

The grounds on each end of the antenna are nothing more than a 4 foot rod driven into the ground. Even ½ inch electrical conduit driven in will work. Besides, I had some left over conduit from the 6 and 2 Meter yagis that I build.

A 1K ohm, 1 watt carbon resistor salvaged from an old TV set solved the termination problem. I stress carbon resistor for good reason. Wire wound and metal film resistors do not react very well to RF!

Now, the part you have been dreading, the balun. It is much easier to make (or scavenge) than you realize. My first attempt was to try an old 75/300 ohm TV antenna matching transformer. Guess what, it worked! Even though the roll-off of the balun increases below 5 Mhz, there was still enough signal present to be heard without a pre-amp. Perhaps there is a way to modify this design. Inside is a binocular core that is wound for use in the VHF/UHF range.

Figure 2 shows an example of how I rewound the core with 1 turn on the coax side and 3 turns on the antenna side. Alternatively, a toroid core (Figure 3) with 4 turns

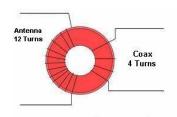


on the coax side and 12 turns on the

Figure 2

antenna side can be used.

The wire from the deflection coil off the back of an old TV picture tube to wind the coils works fine. It can also be used for the antenna



itself. This is one of the few times that size does not matter. This is receive

Figure 3

only, not transmit. Also don't worry about using expensive connectors on the balun. Most stations operating this low

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in frequency and below don't use them. A good solder connection goes a long way.

Now comes the time to try it out. To my surprise, I could hear stations I had a hard time copying before. Even off the back side of the antenna! Mine was pointed West, although, the East coast stations were much easier to copy through the noise than they were on the Inverted-L. But what about North and South? I put up a second one and used a simple coax switch. Actually mine was a single pole double throw switch with the coax centers soldered to it and the shields tied together to change directions. Something that was very helpful when trying to copy the

more distant Central and South American stations that were being covered up by the powerful East and West Coast Big Guns. Even helped with the two nearby super stations in my backyard (Hi to AI9L and WB9Z, I surrender!).

As an added bonus, it also works well on 80 Meters. However, it acted more like a broadside array than End-Fire (better off the sides than the ends) while on 80 Meters. Not bad for using scavenged and salvaged parts and a couple hours of my time. I guess the [antenna] theory is correct...

By John Norton, N9LYE





















Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club PO Box 102 Bedford Park, IL 60499-0102 www.Hamfesters.org

Hamfesters Radio Club



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



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 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 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.