



# Ham Gab

Next meeting: March 1<sup>st</sup>

March 2013

PO Box 102  
Bedford Park, IL  
60499-0102

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

### Special Interest Articles

WAHM Award pg. 4  
Raspberry Pi pg. 7  
SDR pg. 7

### March Birthdays

John K9DRS  
Daniel W9GOB  
Wayne KC9IC  
Matthew N9JXR  
Robert W9LNQ  
Roger K9RB  
Robert KB9YRE  
Dennis KA9ZZT  
Kurt WB9FMC  
Joe WB9SIK  
Walter KC9SYX  
Gene KC9WBI

### Officers

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

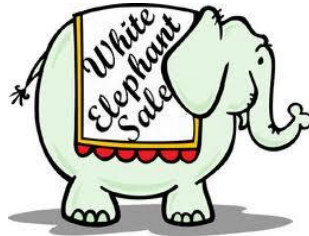
### Board Members

Nora KC9MLV  
Steve W9KXT  
Kurt WB9FMC  
Mike W9MCS  
John WB9JTS  
Cathy KC9NRH

### Hamqab Editors

Steve & Eric  
KC9OOL & KC9OOM  
Scapstone@aol.com

The White Elephant sale will be during the next meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>.



Clear out the garage! Get some cash! Buy that gadget you've been waiting for.



Note: Special meeting in April. The meeting will be on April 12<sup>th</sup> due to the Good Friday Holiday the week before. Dave N9KPD will give a basic weather spotter program in conjunction with the Romeoville National

Weather Service Office. See Don's column below for details. Also thank again to AL N9ZD for last month's excellent presentation on the U505 Submarine. As George N9VOK so eloquently put it: "In Ham Radio you never know what you're going to get."



**Volunteers needed! We need volunteers for the Hamfest. We don't want to wait until the last minute as has happened in previous years. Sign up now so Don won't have to wear that T-Shirt until August.**

## Get Your Tickets!

**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

MARCH 2013

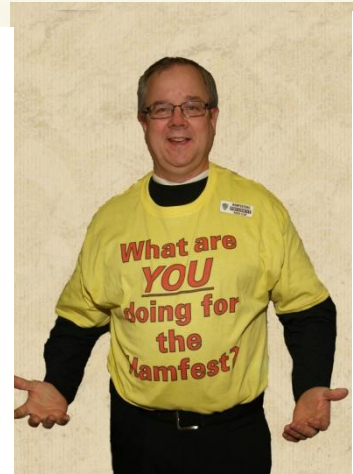
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The numbers say it all! Nearly 70 people were in attendance at our February meeting which featured Guest speaker and fellow Hamfester's member Al Bukowski N9ZD. His presentation on the famous U505 submarine was outstanding and captivating to say the least. What many found interesting was the story of how Hamfester's was able to broadcast live from the U505 some years ago. The videos he shown basically put all in attendance in a front row seat at the scene of its capture back in 1944. Talk about exciting! Al, I'm sure I speak for all who were present at your program when I say thank you for a job well done!

As if that was not enough, George N9VOK made an only too rare appearance, (due to health reasons), at the February meeting. George was very involved with the famous Hamfester's broadcast from the U505 as it happened in 2001 and spoke about that experience. George you looked great and it is always a pleasure to all at our meetings when you pay us a visit at Hamfester's! Don't be a stranger ok?

I want to also acknowledge another person who came to the meeting last month and that would be Lee Tolksdorf WB9USF. Lee is one of those true gentlemen who hail from that era of people known as "The Greatest Generation", and after you spend a few minutes talking to him, you will know what that means when it is applied to Lee. A true gentleman with a sense of humor and sound sense to what really is important in life, Lee is one of those folks who I am glad to call friend and a fellow Hamfester's member. God Bless you Lee and George both.

**KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY!** Dave Bukowski N9KPD, son of the aforementioned Al N9ZD, will be our special Program speaker for the April 12<sup>th</sup>, meeting of Hamfester's as he conducts The Basic Weather Spotters program/class held in conjunction with the Romeoville National Weather Service office. Yes, certificates will be available- just how so is still being worked out at this writing. We strongly encourage fellow Ham Operators and First Responders to attend this **very important** presentation. Ham operators are the eyes and ears to and for instant weather updates, which can result in the saving of countless lives when severe weather is imminent! That season is almost upon us and it's time to refresh, renew or obtain for the first time the valuable knowledge that Dave will impart on all those in attendance April 12. Oh, by the way, did I mention Dave is one of our members? Let's show him a phenomenal turn out!



## **Back on the beat:**

*March 1<sup>st</sup> is our big White Elephant sale gang! This is your chance as a Hamfester's club member to clear out that garage, Ham shack, or mobile of those things that you don't need and get you some cash from someone who has been looking for that very item you might be selling. So...as they say on TV: BRING IT!!*

**Special thanks to:** Jim Riley KB9CYL for the hot, sexy shirt, (see above photo), (Has anyone ever used the word sexy in a Presidents column before?? Ha! Ha!), that I will be wearing at all meetings till Hamfest gets here in August. Yes, I am going to be one big billboard to get the troops out to Hamfest- with you all being the troops!

**Last note:** On behalf of Hamfester's, Nora and myself, our sympathies to the Levickas family of our club, (John AB9JW, his wife Paula and their two children, Matt KC9JXC, and Ashley AB9RS), on the passing of John's mother Lorraine. Our thoughts are with you all.

*73's to all of you and I look forward to seeing you at the White Elephant Sale!*

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

## Hamfesters W9AA Amateur Radio Club Tuesday Jan. 22, 2013 Meeting @ 7:40PM

**Roll:** Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL,  
Patti KC9LYE, Nora KC9MLV,  
Cathy KC9NRH, Kurt WB9FMC, Steve W9KXT,

**Programs: Report** by Don KC9EQQ

**Feb. 1:** U-505 submarine by Al N9ZD, & George N9VOK.

**March 1:** White Elephant Sale

**April 12:** Skywarn by Dave N9KPD

**May:** The Good Humor Man

**June:** FD 2012 by Jim KB9CYL

**July:** Picnic

**August:** Hamfest

**New Business:** Report by Steve W9KXT, on FD weekend there will be a FD on Lake Michigan on the S.S. Badger, Pete K9OWQ is the chairmen.

We're going to ask Pete to present a program in May. Kurt WB9FMC, Using HamNation & Skype we can have speakers at meetings and at our Hamfest.

**Health & Welfare:** Report by Steve W9KXT, Bob W9QBH, is now a SK; he died Dec. 23, 2012. Bob helped create weather spotting, his skills will be missed.

**Minutes:** The Nov. 22, 2012 board minutes were approved by Ed WA9EOL, 2nd by Steve W9KXT.

**Treasurer's Report:** By Ed WA9EOL, approved by Nora KC9MLV, 2nd by Steve W9KXT. Ed WA9EOL, was given approval by the board to talk with the Will County Fairgrounds at Peotone.

Ed's goal, is to try and get Sat.(setup) & Sun.(hamfest) Aug. 3-4, 2013 at a price we can afford.

We will have a cook out on Saturday Aug. 3rd at Peotone for the vendors, & hamfest setup, and security.

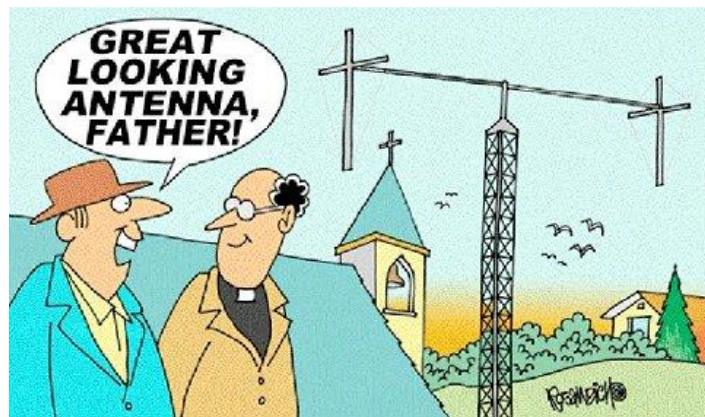
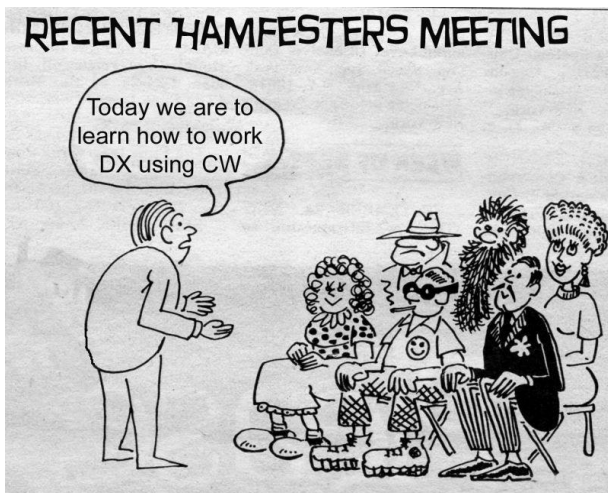
**Field Day:** Report by Jim KB9CYL, FD June 22-23, 2013; lunch & dinner prepared by Mike W9MCS, breakfast prepared by Ed WA9EOL.

All budgets must be approved by the board before any event, or before the purchase.

**Old Business:** Kurt WB9FMC, continues to examine our club's constitution.

Nora KC9MLV, This board has approved, Bob N9RAT, will receive the award for 100 Hamfesters contacts.

**Adjournment:** 9:13PM, approved by Jim KB9CYL, 2nd by Nora KC9MLV.





## Congratulations Bob N9RAT

Congratulation to Bob Harris N9RAT for working 100 Hamfesters and receiving the WAHM award. The award was presented at the February meeting by our club president Don KC9EQQ. See picture below. Bob has been working toward the WAHM award for several years. He has made contacts with new and old members. Many of his logged contacts are now silent key. Bob's persistence has paid off. Well done Bob!



### **RUBASH SAID "RUBBISH"**

Last December, Glen Rubash, KC0GPV, of Dwight, Kansas, was issued a \$10,000 fine for what the FCC called "willfully and repeatedly" violating the Communications Act by operating an unlicensed radio transmitter on the frequency 88.3 MHz in Kansas. FCC agents used direction finding techniques to confirm the station was operating on 88.3 MHz but signal was coming from the property next door to KC0GPV's QTH. The agents, accompanied by the property owner, inspected the unlicensed station's antenna and transmitter located in next door's locked detached garage.

When questioned, Rubash said that he would not relinquish the transmitter if asked to do so. The FCC said that this response demonstrated that Rubash had control over the station even though it was not on his property. The court result was Rubash was given one month to pay the \$10,000 fine. *From Southgate Amateur Radio Club News*

# General meeting minutes – Patti, KC9LYE

**W9AA Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club Meeting Feb. 1, 2013 meeting began @ 7:35Pm**

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

**New Business:** Report by Ed WA9EOL, we will have our annual hamfest on Sunday Aug. 4, 2013 @ the Will County Fairgrounds, in Peotone, ILL.

The setup day is Sat, Aug.3rd, there will be a picnic that day to welcome vendors, and Hamfest members working security, & setup. The board voted in favor of the picnic at the Jan. 22nd board meeting.

At tonight's meeting there were; 49 members, & 10 visitors. Welcome!

**Minutes:** The Jan. 2013 club minutes were approved by Bob N9KWG, 2nd by Bob N9JYX.

**Treasurer's Report:** by Ed WA9EOL, approved by Bob N9JYX, & 2nd by John WB9JTS.

**Membership:** By Brian W9HLQ, our club's roster is on-line and updated regularly. Thanks to Neil for his help.

**Programs:** Tonight the U-505 W.W. II submarine by Al N9ZD, & George N9VOK. Great Job!

**March 1:** Our Annual White Elephant sale. If you've

ever wanted to own an elephant... for peanuts. Tusk, tusk. Ok, I'll stop now.

**April 12:** Skywarn training by Dave N9KPD.

**May:** Pete K9OWQ, field day on Lake Michigan sailing on the S.S. Badger.

**June:** Field Day 2012 by Jim KB9CYL

**August:** Hamfest by Kerry AA9SB

**Old Business:** Our President Don KC9EQQ, presented Bob N9RAT, with the Worked 100 Hamfesters Members Award.

Congratulations Bob!

**Adjournment:** @ 9:33PM approved by Ed WA9EOL, 2nd by Bob N9JYX.

Tonight we sold 40 tickets for the HT. It was won by Chuck Laidlaw.

Incentive for passing the Technician license exam.

**Door Prize Winners:** Bruce KB9USB, Ed WA9EOL, Rich N9UNQ.

**Raffle Prize Winners:** Mike W9MCS 2x's, Grandville W9PNG,

Don KC9EQQ, Steve KC9OOL, George N9VOK,

Delores Gassmere, Jim KB9CYL 2x's.

## Hamfest Ticket Sales de Jim Riley KB9CYL

2013 Hamfest tickets will be available at the March white elephant sale for purchase or to take for sale. This year they will be bright yellow so don't tell me you didn't see them. Also available will be 2,000 Hamfest flyers in the same color. Please pick up a bunch and take them to hamfests, Radio Shacks, and any place else where you might find a potential Hamfest ticket customer.

New members should know that the Hamfest is our one big fund raiser for the year. Advance ticket sales put money in the club's coffers and protect us from bad weather or anything else that would keep people away on Hamfest morning. Plus, they give you an extra chance of winning a prize and save you two bucks off the gate price. Your credit's good. Stop by and pick up some tickets to sell. You can pay me when you sell them and come back for more.

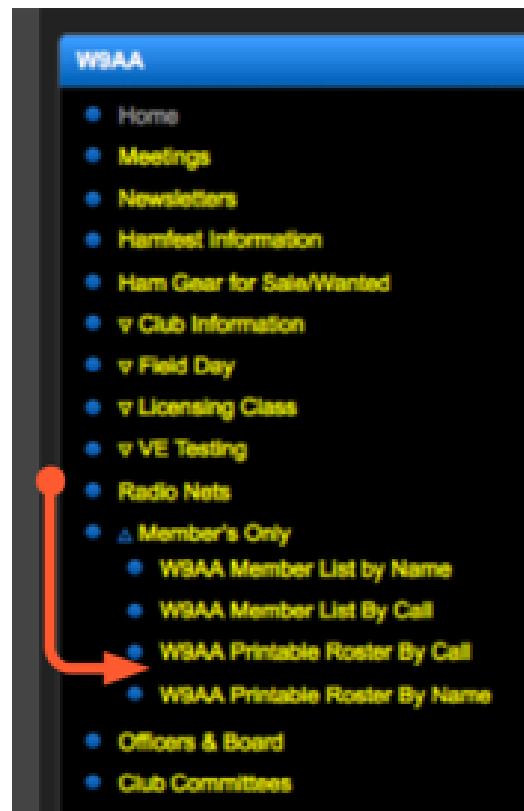
## Hamfesters Roster News

The club roster format has been updated for your convenience. We now have a nice printable version of the club roster online where you can print it anytime you wish. We still have the easy to use online version of club member information on the **Members Only** page.

Remember in past years the roster was printed and the data in it was about a year old since it was printed only once a year. Now you have

current up to date roster information anytime you need it! Thanks to Granville, W9PNG and your membership chairman in providing this improvement.

Notice the new entries for printing in the image below:



Dave, NF9N called with his new QTH. He is doing well. He will try to make a future meeting soon.

Dave Brasel, NF9N  
Illinois Veterans Home  
R1W  
Manteno, IL 60950 708/717-2296 email:  
[nf9n@aol.com](mailto:nf9n@aol.com)



### Beam antenna for sale: Zyggi KZ9DX

Antenna is Mosley TA33XLW 5 elements 4 on 10,15'and 20 M. Band and 1 element on 12 and 17 M . Antenna has a 3 inch OD by 21 foot boom.

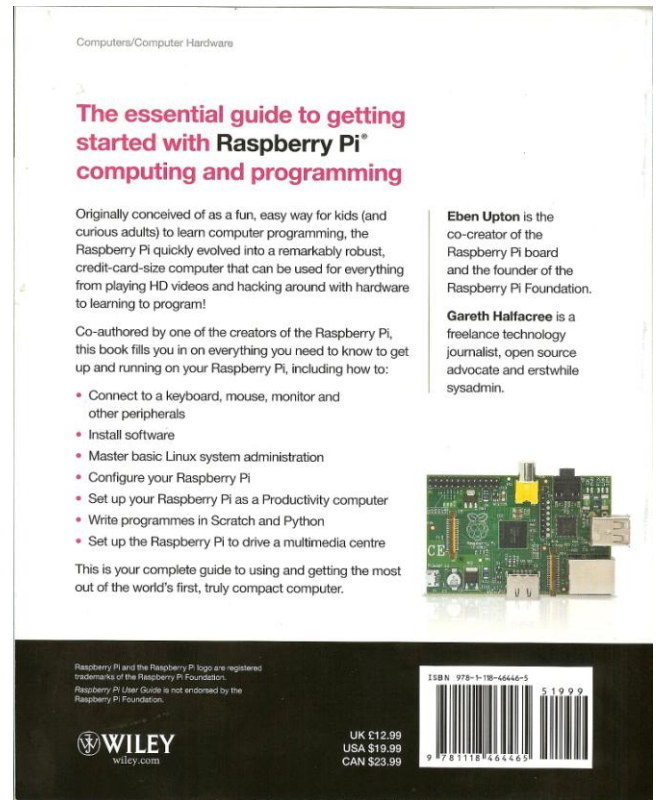
I have ALL the parts and assembly manual.

The antenna is in good condition, anybody who wants more info please contact me at. [kz9dx@arrl.net](mailto:kz9dx@arrl.net)

## Raspberry Pi

Several weeks ago I ordered my Raspberry Pi and have been discovering how to use it. Brian, W9HLQ, and several other Hamfesters are playing with these pretty powerful Mini PC's. The assembled board costs \$35.00 and comes with 512 Meg of memory. You can get "a plug and play" system for about twice that price(see attached). I am using mine for D-Star and a multitude of other apps. Brian is discovering uses for his as well. The system uses Linux, open architecture, so software is very available. There are reasonably priced expansion boards for projects. Here is a link if you are interested: <http://www.mcmelectronics.com/content/en-US/raspberry-pi>.

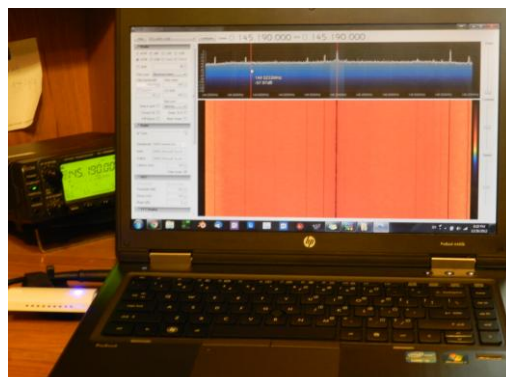
73, Steve, W9KXT



## Editor's Ramblings

### Software Defined Radio

On page 30 of January's QST, there is an article about putting together a software defined receiver. Eric and I decided to give it a try. It uses a USB flash drive that was developed to allow digital video reception on a PC or laptop. It is known as a DVB-T Dongle and we were able to find one on Amazon for less than \$30. It also required a PAL Male to F Female connector which we were able to get at Radio Shack. It was the last one the store had in stock. We hooked it into our 2 meter antenna and Eric's laptop. Eric downloaded the software needed and had it configured in a few minutes. It was cool to see the FM spectrum flow across the laptop screen. The strong peaks were clearly visible and we were able to tune to the signal. It wasn't incredibly clear, but we were able to copy the transmissions. This is a receiver only, but it was a fun afternoon project. The complete instructions are in the QST article.





## Hamfesters VE Testing: By Al Bukowski N9ZD

Amateur Radio exams February 9, 2013 at the Oak Forest City Hall 15440 S. Central Ave. Oak Forest, ILL 60452. We had two candidates that 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, Ron WB9JYZ and myself, N9ZD.



If you or a friend are planning on taking an 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, IL 60452. Oak Forest City Hall Doors open at 9:00 AM. We begin testing at 9:15 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 Hall.

Our next test session will be held on Saturday March 9, 2013.

Very important: Please remember to bring the following items with you to any exam session: The appropriate fee (currently \$15) for the test. 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 the FCC.



If you have any Questions regarding our test session or Questions about upgrading, please contact me - via email at: [N9ZD@ARRL.net](mailto:N9ZD@ARRL.net).

Again - The test fee is still \$15.00 (cash only -- no credit cards 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, March 2013





## 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 79<sup>th</sup> annual Hamfest coming August 4, 2013-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 22 & June 23 2013 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.*