



Ham Gab

Next meeting: May 3rd

May 2013

PO Box 102
Bedford Park, IL
60499-0102

www.hamfesters.org

Special Interest Articles

Brain Teasers pg. 6
Keeping Active in Ham
Radio pg. 7

May Birthdays

Donald KC9EQQ
Brian W9HLQ
David N9KPD
Mathew AA9M
Gregg AB9MZ
Steve KC9OOL
Carl Coffelt (no call sign)
Cathy KC9NRH

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Vice President -Jim KB9CYL
Secretary-Patty KC9LYE
Treasurer- ED WA9EOL
SGT at Arm-Rich N9UNQ
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Mike W9MCS
John WB9JTS
Cathy KC9NRH

Hamqab Editors

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Pete K9OWQ will be presenting the program in May. It will be about the SS Badger which is the last coal powered ferry ship to cross Lake Michigan. In September of this year, Ham Radio operators will be invited to set up their rigs and ferry across the lake making contacts from mighty Lake Michigan. Be sure to come to the May meeting to get all the information about this unique ham radio opportunity!



Great
Job
David!

Congratulations to Dave N9KPD for his excellent weather spotting course at the last meeting. Dave masterfully explained the basic concepts of severe weather spotting and gave a useful description of the resources out there for weather spotters. Ham Radio and weather spotting are a great compliment to each other. It was a packed house and both hams and non-hams alike came out well informed and had a great time. See Dave's course follow up on page 4.



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

MAY 2013

Talk about Irony! On April 12th, 2013 our club was the host for what turned out to be a very timely program in the guise of our fellow member Dave Bukowski N9KPD's Basic Weather Spotters Course presentation. Nearly one week later after his program, as we all well know now saw our Chicago Region get slammed by some of the worst flooding and storms in quite a long time. If you are one of those thousands who incurred damage from these storms our hearts go out to you. Recovery is going to be tough for many, but people up here in these parts are resilient and will come out of this. The actions of Volunteers, First Responders and many others as Nora and I watch the news tonight, (April 18th), surely show that Midwesterners know how to come together and help their brothers and sisters out. I've no doubt that Ham operators were and probably still out in force fulfilling all those duties necessary in weather spotting and helping out their neighbors, families and friends. A Hamfesters Hat's off to you if you are in such a role. Lets all keep everyone affected by this weather event in our prayers and thoughts.

In keeping with the same thought of thinking of others, the Horrific events of the bombing and explosions in Boston, Massachusetts and Waco, Texas remind us all to keep all the many of those forever impacted by those said events in our hearts, prayers and thoughts too. These past seven days have been unlike any we all have seen in days haven't they?

Well let's try to get back to some positive news. Visitors came from as far as Wisconsin, Indiana and all points in between to see Dave do an outstanding job giving his program to the nearly 100 attendees present on April 12th! I have received a considerable amount of feedback about how prepared Dave was in giving a very informative and concise presentation. We have some very gifted members in our club well capable on providing our members and guests a night of information and education through the topics of which they present to our club, and Dave certainly proves he can deliver with the best of them! On behalf of your fellow members Dave, a heartfelt and appreciative thanks is sent your way. Next year, I think Dave should come back with his timely program, how about you folks out there?

The month of May 2013 will surely show that our great round up of programs will continue as again a fellow member puts on what should be a great program about a great upcoming event- The Ham Radio trip on the Lake Michigan Ferry ship known as the SS Badger. The Badger is the last Coal powered ship that crosses Lake Michigan from Ludington, Michigan to Manitowoc, Wisconsin and in September of this year, Ham operators will be invited to "set up" shop and be able to broadcast from the Badger on the mighty seas. Pete K9OWQ will be presenting this special program on the September event. Pete is one of those down to earth kind of guys who you grow to like right off the bat and I look forward to hearing his lecture. Back at our March White Elephant meeting you might remember, I asked Pete to give a teaser talk on the Badger and at the May meeting the stage belongs to him! I am sure you have many questions about the forthcoming trip and he will be happy to answer those to the best of his ability. So come out and support your fellow member Pete as he makes his presentation.

These great meetings would not be what they are if it wasn't for the many of you who volunteer at the meetings to help set up the room, take down registration, help Nora with coffee and donuts, clean up the room after the meeting and make our guests and fellow members feel right at home with their down home hospitality. To the many of you who helped out at Dave's program a big, fat thank you from Nora and me for your unselfish dedication. If you think what would it be like to help out at our meeting, just ask those who do and they will tell you, "It's Great!" So how about it gang? Won't you help at our next meeting? There is plenty to do and your assistance will be well appreciated.



Back on the beat:

By the time you receive your Hamgag issue of June, Memorial Day will have come and gone. But let us not see come and go our thoughts of thanks and appreciation to all those who gave the supreme sacrifice to keep our Nation safe and secure be it in times of War or Peace. These days we need to not only remember all those in the Armed Services who gave such a sacrifice but also the dedicated individuals known as First Responders who have made the same supreme sacrifice keeping Family, neighbors and strangers safe from harm. Fire, Police, EMS, EMA, Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, National Guard, Merchant Marines and the like work together for one common cause- keeping Country and Community safe for all. When that sacrifice is made we are all kept safer at a price few can imagine. So, I hope you join me in thanking them in our thoughts and quiet Memorial Day services that will honor them in ways befitting these amazing individuals. When you hang your flag that day in half mast, take a moment to remind those too young to remember WWII, Korea, Viet Nam and other like events of the importance of those people in those events of just why that flag is in half mast, so they will have a better appreciation of when Old Glory goes full mast. My thanks to all who sacrificed for this great country. And in closing, look to YouTube for the way our National Anthem was played at the Boston Bruins game a day after the Boston Bombing. You will never feel more proud to call yourself an American...."nuff said... 73 to all of you and Nora and I will see you May 3rd. Please take care.

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

W9AA Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2013 began @ 7:30 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, John
WB9JTS, Nora KC9MLV, Kurt WB9FMC, Cathy KC9NRH, Steve
W9KXT, Kerry AA9SB

President's Report: Don KC9EQQ, April 12th program by Dave
N9KPD, Basic Weather Spotter's course. The doors will open @
6:30 PM, please arrive @ 5:00 PM for set up.

There might be TV coverage. Board members please meet &
greet.

The meeting will be brief, reports by; Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL,
Kerry AA9SB, & Patti KC9LYE. Door prizes, two weather radios, &
two other weather related prizes.

There will be no other raffles that night.

Programs: May The S.S. Badger by William "Pete K9OWQ"
Peterson. There'll be a trip Sept. 14-15, 2013 from Wis. to Mich.

June program by Jim KB9CYL. Field Day 2012

July our annual picnic, Hamfesters was founded 1933

Aug. program by Kerry AA9SB, Hamfest

Health & Welfare: Ed Andrews of Andrew's antenna Co., Orland
Park, ILL. is a silent key.

Treasurer's Report: Ed WA9EOL, Ed's report approved by Kurt
WB9FMC, 2nd by Steve W9KXT.

Minutes: The Jan. board minutes were approved by Ed WA9EOL,
2nd by Kurt WB9FMC. There was no board meeting in Feb.

Publicity & Hamfest: Report by Kerry
AA9SB, publicity was sent for our April
12th meeting.

Vendors from SuperFest might attend
our Hamfest.

It is possible that through HamNation,
via Skype Gordon West, could give a
program @hamfest.

We'll need more VE testers @ our
hamfest.

Membership: Brian W9HLQ, has 91 paid members.

Old Business: Kurt WB9FMC, continues to study our club's
constitution, approved by Jim KB9CYL, & 2nd by John WB9JTS.
All club members are welcome to attend our monthly board
meetings. Only elected officers, & board members can vote @
board meetings.

New Business: Report by Jim KB9CYL, Hamfesters needs another
storage location for Hamfester items, & the club's trailer. The
board understands that the club may have to pay for storage @
the new location.

The trailer won't be used @ our July picnic.

At club meetings the door prizes will be more expensive, &
fewer.

Adjournment: @9:25 PM Approved By Kurt WB9FMC, 2nd by Ed
WA9EOL.



General meeting minutes – Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club meeting
April 12, 2013 @ 7:35 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOI, Patti KC9LYE.

There were 49 visitors, & 47 members at this meeting.

Bob N9JYX, made a motion that business be suspended in favor
of the program, approved by Jim KB9CYL.

Club President Don KC9EQQ, Welcomed our members & guests.

Guests were invited to visit www.hamfesters.org

Jim KB9CYL, invited our guests to Field Day June 22-23, 2013, and
to hamfest on Aug. 4th. And, asked members to sell hamfest
tickets, take and distribute hamfest fliers.

The program tonight "Basic Weather Spotting" by Dave N9KPD.

Great Job Dave!

Adjournment @ 10:05 PM

Door Prize drawing, two weather radios, & two clocks.

Winners; Pat Shaloo KB9KRT, Brian Lee, Jason Baldar, & Katrina
Miller

Weather Spotting Course Follow Up: Dave N9KPD

At the severe weather spotter training, I briefly mentioned about the vertical structure of the atmosphere. Here I will further go into detail as to how that vertical structure and instability is calculated out. Weather balloons which carry radiosondes are deployed every 12 hours, every day, at 0000z and 1200z. These devices give us a vertical profile of our atmosphere. Thunderstorms develop from a vertical motion of air parcels through the atmosphere because of instability. The data provided helps the forecaster determine the instability of the ambient air surrounding these air parcels in the atmosphere.

The dataset that is recorded includes the ambient Temperature (T), Relative Humidity (RH), Pressure (P), and Wind Direction and Speed. There are certain mandatory levels that it will take measurements at including the 925 mb, 850 mb, 700 mb, 500 mb, 300 mb, 250 mb, and 200 mb pressure levels. There are also other intermediate levels that measurements will be taken at determined by significant changes. These measurements at these levels will also be used in plotting upper air analysis charts for their appropriate pressure levels.

The data samples collected are all then graphed and displayed in a visual format on a Skew-T diagram. Also included is the wind barbs and a hodograph to visualize the winds in the vertical profile.

On some days, this visual representation it is very easy to see the instability of the atmosphere. With the data collected values for indexes and other calculations are made to help numerically represent the instability of the atmosphere.

Some of these values include CAPE (Convective Available Potential Energy), LI (lifted Index), K-index, SI (Showalter Index), TT (Total Totals Index), and others.

CAPE is the amount of potential energy that a parcel can obtain from the environmental conditions. The higher the CAPE, the more potential energy that is available.

The LI is a measure of latent instability. The K-Index describes the static stability. SI is similar to the LI, but instead concentrates on the 850mb pressure level. This would be used for determining elevated thunderstorms. The TT looks at the overall static stability and can help determine the chance of severe thunderstorm potential. Other values are described in the links at the end of this article. Also another value to watch for is the Cap strength. With a high enough of a cap, all the other values could be present for a major severe storm outbreak, but if the energy is not enough to break that cap, the storms would not be able to initiate. On the other hand, if the cap is broken, all that potential energy would accelerate in a vertical direction and initiate the thunderstorms that the potential exists for. Using these values and others calculated from the data can help predict when and where severe thunderstorms will occur.



Other than for forecasting severe storms, this upper air data could be used to determine how ham radio VHF/UHF radio signals would propagate with tropospheric ducting which occurs along fronts and inversion layers. The inversion can be visible from the graphical representation on the Skew-T diagram.

There is a disadvantage to these measurements though. The distance between stations is a much greater distance than the surface observation stations are. Here in Chicago, IL, our closest upper air observation stations include: [Lincoln, IL], [Davenport, IA], [Green Bay, WI], and [Detroit, MI]. These are not really next to the Chicagoland area and lakefront conditions could drastically change some of the lower level atmospheric conditions.

Additional supplemental information can be located at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/n9kpdwx1/infopages/20130421-s1>

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/courses/old533/projects/sancho/proposal/documents/Skew-T-Manual.pdf>

These sites give you the diagrams created from the rawinsonde data:

<http://weather.rap.ucar.edu/upper/> (University Corporation for Atmospheric Research)

http://weather.cod.edu/buildmap/analysis/raob_build.php (College of DuPage NEXLAB)

Dave Bukowski -- NREMT-B
BLS Instructor (CPR & AED)
N9KPD

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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

CQ Field Day de Jim Riley KB9CYL

I was talking to Joe Kratky KA9KBU at the April meeting. He let me know that he will not be at this year's Field Day. Joe does a lot for our group and his presence will be sorely missed. He will still do all the prep work as he always does. Thanks for all you do, Joe, your Field Day team really appreciates it.

This is where **YOU** have to step up and fill the void. We need someone to get this year's Field Day message. I'd prefer it copied from PSK-31 or RTTY and emailed to me but hand-copied CW or any other format will do as long as it's 100% solid copy. We'll need solar panels or some other means of getting our natural power points. This can be a water wheel, wind turbine, or a hamster in a cage, whatever generates electricity naturally. We may need another generator too. Let me know if you can help.

I have a separate email list for our Field Day team with a lot more in-depth information than you get here.

Some call it spam. If you would like to get on this list, please send your address to kb9cyl@mail.com and I'll add you.

Field Day is at Altman Park in Worth. That's approximately 116th and Oketo, about a quarter mile west of 115th and Harlem. Setup begins at 0800 Saturday 22 June. The more help we have for setup, the quicker it gets done. Operations run from Saturday at 1800Z thru Sunday at 1800Z. That's 1 p.m thru 1 p.m. for the UTC-challenged.

Remember, there's Field Day and there's Hamfesters Field Day. Experience the difference.

Thanks to Steve Peters W9KXT for passing on the following article:

Thought Hamfesters might be interested in the FEMA Director's comments on Ham Radio. Craig Fugate is KK3INZ.

"Last week at FEMA HQ, I met with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio. The ARRL is coming up on its Centennial Celebration next year and has been a valuable partner in emergency management through the decades.

For those of you that are not familiar with Amateur radio, or ham radio as it is sometimes referred, it is the use of certain radio frequencies as a hobby, to exchange non-commercial messages, as a tool for education and experimentation and for public service community activities including assisting in emergency communications.

As a radio amateur, I enjoyed talking with them about the contributions that Hams can make in times of disaster "when all else fails."

We're looking forward to their annual Field Day, coming up in June, where I will test my own field gear. It is a great event to encourage first responders and citizens to think about how to prepare for disasters and how to develop a plan for themselves and their communities. And perhaps it will inspire more to consider this great hobby that also has a long and legendary history of public service to the nation.

We're grateful to our friends at ARRL and look forward to partnering with them in exercises and efforts to plan, prepare, respond and recover from future events that we may face.

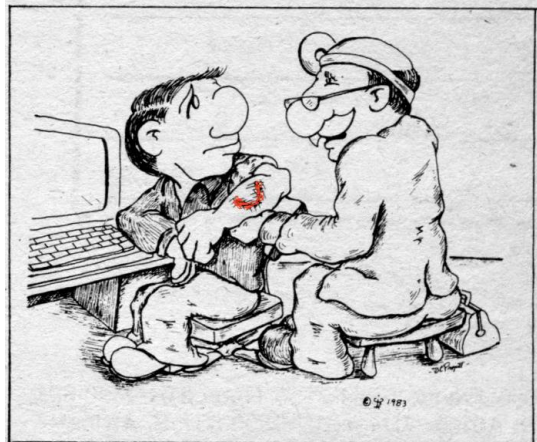
-Craig, KK4INZ"



Thanks Brian W9HLQ for the following Brain Teasers
Brain Teasers – Think Outside the Box



1. 36 I. in A. Y. sample: (36 inches in a yard)
2. 3.6 M. is in the 80 meter band
3. 360 D. in a C.
4. 1000 M-A. in an A.
5. 39.37 I. equals 1 M.
6. "WAS" means W. A. S.
7. 186,000 M.P.S. is the S. of L.
8. 10 V. equals 1 A. flowing thru 1 O
9. 10^6 equals 1 M.
10. 3.14159 equals P.
11. 60 S. in a M.
12. 90 D. in a R.A.
13. 360 D. in a S. W. C.
14. P. equals I. x I. x R.
15. 24 H. in a D.
16. A transistor has a B., E., and C.
17. In 1961 hams launched O. 1.
18. "CW" is short for C.W.
19. Another name for a B. is a Y.



Hmmm . . . Worst data byte I've seen in a long time.'

Look for answers next issue of HamGab.

Hamfesters VE Testing: By Al Bukowski N9ZD

Hamfesters Radio club VE's administered FCC Amateur Radio exams April 13, 2013 at the Oak Forest City Hall 15440 S. Central Ave. Oak Forest, ILL 60452. We had two candidates in which one upgraded to General and one who earned a Technician ticket. The VE's who helped me at this exam session were; Tim AA9BV, Gene KB9RNM, and Ron N9STU.



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 May 11, 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.

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

73's AL – N9ZD

Keeping Active in Amateur Radio

By Ed Stroh, K9EGS



Some of you may spend a lot of time reading all the fine articles published in CQ Magazine, QST magazine and various other amateur radio related magazines. As you browse through those magazines you may day-dream about all the nice radios, antennas and equipment advertised in those magazines and how good they would look in your shack. But you do not necessarily keep active in the hobby by spending much time on the air. I would like to share with you some of the things that I have used to help keep me more active in amateur radio.

To begin with, I am by no means an expert DXer or contester and will probably never profess to be one. I am not much of a rag chewer either. I am what I call a casual DXer, contester and operator. One of the ways that I use to keep active in amateur radio is to participate in awards programs. Being a "paper chaser", (someone who goes after various awards), may not be everyone's "cup of tea", but for me it is something that keeps me active in amateur radio and gives me a goal to strive for. I was just licensed in 2009 and the first 2 years or so I spent most of my HF radio on-air time checking-in to nets. There was always a lot of people to make contacts with on the nets and the nets made it easier to reach a couple of my goals of WAS (Worked All States) awards on 40 meters and 80 meters. Another benefit of working the HF nets is that some of them have their own QSL Bureau. This makes it convenient and much less costly to send and receive QSL cards because you send and receive them in bulk. You just send the bureau several SASE for them to keep on file and they send you back a half a dozen cards in each SASE once the contacts you make on the net send you their QSL card via the bureau. So it is like getting 6 QSL cards for the price of one.

After spending most of my first 2 years of radio time concentrating on working US stations for the WAS Awards,

I started thinking, "why not go after more foreign stations and work toward DXCC and the CQ DX Award." Both of these awards are for verifying 100 countries. So I started to tune around the bands more and pay closer attention to propagation conditions. At first it was kind of a slow process doing what I call "hunting and pecking." It seemed like new countries for me were few and far

between. Then came a big change in the 10 meter band conditions around September-October 2011. All of the sudden I was hearing many new countries and was able to contact them rather easily. I did not spend all my time on 10 meters, but many of my totals were made on that band. The thing that really opened up much bigger opportunities for me to increase my country totals was when I discovered contests, the first one of which was the CQ World Wide SSB contest during October 2011, around the time when the 10 meter band came alive. I have heard that some people prefer not to participate in contests, I guess because they just don't want to get all wrapped up in what seems to be far from leisure operating conditions. I admit that contests can be kind of hyper sometimes, but it all depends on what you make of it.

There are many very dedicated contest operators who work hard on building their contest points by making as many contacts as possible during a contest, but that is not my style. I am what you might consider a leisure contest operator. I don't try to make as many contacts/points as possible during the contest. I don't even submit a contest log to the contest headquarters. What I do is use the contest as a tool to build up my country totals. A contest is an excellent way to do this. During a contest there are so many foreign stations on the air during a given contest period that it is unbelievable. Sometimes finding new countries to add to your totals is like "shooting fish in a barrel". There is one contest, called the International DX Contest which is held during the first weekend in March, in which the objective is for foreign stations to contact as many North American stations as possible. What more could you ask for? The foreign stations are hunting for us American and Canadian ham stations. I was able to contact over 100 countries/entities without too much difficulty by using the various contests throughout the year. Basically, I used only 3 contests to help reach my goal of 100 countries/entities. They were as follows: the ARRL International DX SSB contest in March, the CQ WPX SSB contest in March and the CQ World Wide SSB contest in October. About 75 of my 100 plus country totals were made possible by participating in those 3 contests.

Hamgab, May 2013

The DXCC and/or CQ DX Awards do not come without a price. When you add up all the postage to foreign countries as well the cost of providing the foreign stations with return postage, it can be quite expensive. A rough calculation would be about \$3.25 per country. That would include \$2.20 for 1 IRC (International Reply Coupon) and \$1.05 for the outgoing postage to each foreign country. Although the \$3.25 price tag does not include the cost of the envelope or the printing of your own QSL card, and some stations want 2 IRCs. Sometimes you get a break when the foreign station has a QSL Manager located in the USA. Then the postage is much lower. It only costs \$.45 x 2 = \$.90 because you send a SASE to the foreign station's QSL manager located in the US. I would guess that maybe about 15-20 out of the 100 plus foreign stations that I have made contacts with either used QSL managers located in the US or they were US stations temporarily operating in a foreign country during a contest or DXpedition. Of course there are many foreign stations that participate in the QSL Bureau. Sending and receiving QSL cards via the ARRL QSL Bureau is much less costly because you send and receive them in bulk. But the Bureau is also very slow. Sometimes it can take many months or as long as a year to receive that elusive QSL card that you are waiting for. The Bureau is a trade off that will definitely save you money as long as you are not the anxious type and don't mind waiting.

An alternative to incurring the postage cost and IRC cost of sending out all those paper QSL cards is LoTW, (Logbook of The World). It is an electronic way of verifying QSOs that is provided by the ARRL. All QSOs verified on LoTW can be used towards DXCC, WAS and other ARRL awards as well as the CQ WPX award. The only problem with LoTW is that not everyone participates in it. I use LoTW, and even though many of my QSOs were verified on LoTW, I always send a paper QSL card via US mail for every QSO that I want to verify. I guess I am old fashioned and I like the idea of having the paper card in my hand. All but 1 or 2 of my 100 plus country contacts have been verified by paper card. Sometimes there are those few hams who do not give out cards but will use LoTW instead. LoTW can be a useful tool, especially if you want to cut costs.

So if you would like to get more active, (on the air) or do more than just casual operating on the HF bands, or you

would like a goal to strive for which will help you to stay more active in amateur radio, consider going for the DXCC Award and CQ DX Award as well as the various other awards offered by CQ and the ARRL. You can do this by participating in some of the many contests that can help you to achieve that goal. Check out the CQ Magazine "Contesting" column in every issue of CQ as well as the "Contest Corral" column that appears in every issue of QST Magazine for an exhaustive list of all the contests during a particular month. Also click on <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar> or http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/index_cq_contests.html for a listing of those contests.

By now some of you may be thinking that your modest station is not capable of contacting 100 or more countries. I would like to mention that you do not have to be some sort of super high power station, one of the so called "big guns", with a 1500 watt amplifier and a tall tower to obtain the goal of contacting/verifying 100 countries. I certainly am not high power nor one of the "big guns". I use only 100 watts and 2 modest antennas, a \$160 - 25 foot high Alpha Delta DXCC inverted vee, and a \$125 - 15 year old used Mosley TA33JRN tri-band beam at 15 feet. I might have been able to make all of those contacts on only the inverted vee, but I must admit that the tri-band beam really did help at times. I used to think that I REALLY needed an amplifier if I wanted to obtain any kind of substantial country totals. But that way of thinking proved to be unnecessary for me. When conditions were right I was able to contact stations as far away as New Zealand, Fiji, French Polynesia and Japan with only 100 watts from my modest northern Illinois station. I have also been able to get through some of the big pileups just by using patience and perseverance.

So if you are looking for some ways to become more active in ham radio and spend more time on the air, try out some of the ideas that I have presented here. Having a goal to strive for can really help to keep you active in this fine hobby.

73's Ed Stroh, K9EGS



Hamgab, May 2013





Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 102

Bedford Park, IL 60499-0102

www.Hamfesters.org

Hamfesters Radio Club



Meetings and VE Testing

Club meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at the Crestwood Civic Center, 14025 Kostner Ave. in Crestwood, IL.

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. September meetings may vary if our meeting date conflicts with the Crestwood Flower show.

Board Meetings: 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month at the Crestwood Civic Center

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. AI N9ZD VE Team Chairman

Special Activities

Hamfesters Big Peotone Hamfest: Our 79th 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 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.