



Ham Gab

Next meeting: August 2nd

August 2013

PO Box 102
Bedford Park, IL
60499-0102

www.hamfesters.org

Special Interest Articles

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August Birthdays

John W9BNR
Richard KA9BUK
Jack W9NJB
Lenny KB9OUQ
Bill W9ZJ
Matthew KC9JXC
Nora KC9MLV
Colette K9LKT

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President-Don KC9EQQ
Vice President -Jim KB9CYL
Secretary-Patty KC9LYE
Treasurer- ED WA9EOL
SGT at Arm-Rich N9UNQ
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Board Members

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

Hamgab Editors

Steve & Eric
KC9OOL & KC9OOM
Scapstone@aol.com



Thumbs up to all the Hamfesters who made Field Day another resounding success. Special thanks also go out to Jim KB9CYL for his unfailing leadership. See Jim's report on page 3. Pictures from Field Day and the July Meeting can be found in the web version of the Hamgab. Many thanks as well to Ron, KB9TCX, and the Chicago ridge Honor Guard for presenting the colors at the meeting.

Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club 79th Annual Hamfest

Sunday August 4, 2013

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 Phone: 708-335-4574

Help Early, Help Often! - The Club will need volunteers to help out at our annual Hamfest coming on August 4th. Mark your calendars now!

THE PRESIDENT'S BEAT

DONALD POINTER KC9EEQ

AUGUST 2013

Well despite a few timing and pizza delivery problems, last night's Hamfester Salute to Veterans and Indoor Picnic went off beautifully. On behalf of Nora and I we need to thank all those who attended, helped with set-up and tear down, brought food for all to enjoy and particularly four very special Gentlemen and their XYL's. These four would be the proud members of the Chicago Ridge VFW and their names are: Joe Carvelli, Tony Smertene, Chris Harris and of course our very own Ron Kalat KB9TCX. These four men have made it a habit for the last four years by teaming up as the Honor Guard presenting the colors and leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance after said colors were posted. My gut says everyone present last night were humbly honored to have the honor guard honor us by their presence last night. I know Nora and I were blessed by the efforts this group of men makes every year to be at this always special event our club hosts.

By special request, we also replayed the tape of the heartfelt explanation of the Pledge of Allegiance as told by the Late Legendary Actor/performer Red Skelton. It does the job every time explaining how great a land we live in and how we should value it and protect it everyday, such as what all our men and women in all manner of uniforms do in this country 24/7/365.

Around the corner is Hamfest!! I hope you will join us in welcoming Kerry Nelson AA9SB as he presents his Hamfest event program at the August 2nd, 2013 meeting. Hamfest itself will be taking place on August 4th and Kerry's meeting on the second will be an important link in making sure that all of our members recognize and share the importance in giving Kerry any help this membership can render him to assure that we have a successful event. Please offer him your support by attending the meeting and throwing your hat in the ring as it were to provide whatever help you can on the fourth.

New this year for Hamfest, will be a Vendors and helpers appreciation night the night before Hamfest. We will have a little bit of Hamburgers, little bit of hot dogs, soda and chips and a WHOLE LOT OF THANKS to the people who make this all possible- the vendors and Hamfester Volunteer Support team. Vendors help pay our bills by their participation in this event and I felt it was time we did something to recognize them, hence the little cook out we are hosting for them and our valued helpers. So what are YOU waiting for? Give Kerry a call today and tell him, "Hey! I'm in!"

Back on the beat:

Last night, I made a big announcement about our December 6th Christmas Party. And now here it is for all to read about- but first a little background. As most of you know, this year is the 80th anniversary of our club. As a matter of fact we are the second oldest Ham Radio Club in the Nation! Quite a milestone for quite a club!! So to celebrate this wonderful time in our club's history, we will have none other than Country Music star and well-known local performer to boot, Mr. Cal Starr who will perform after the awards and dinner portion of our Christmas party for about an hour or so. He has performed and worked with the best of them such as Loretta Lynn, Waylon Jennings Earnest Tubb to name a few and has worked everywhere from Vegas to Branson and many a venue in between. He will entertain us with great music, stories and Christmas music too for that matter for all present to enjoy. This year we will have a dance floor, tables in the round and of course all of this will be enjoyed at the wonderful Papa Joes Restaurant in Orland Park. And here is the best part folks- all of this will be available for the low ticket price of \$25.00 per person.



As your President, I encourage all of my fellow members to attend this wonderful night that celebrates all the following in one neat package: Our club's anniversary, the Holiday season, and most importantly the fellowship of group of people who truly care about one another and the club they belong to. A group of people known worldwide as.....**HAMFESTERS!**

By the way, there will only be about 90 tickets available for this event, so please act promptly to make sure you do not miss out on this special and memorable night. After all- an 80th anniversary only comes around once in a lifetime!! Tickets will go on sale soon and we will announce when they are available for your purchase, so stay tuned for more forthcoming ticket availability info.

Are you prepared? Our very own Gregg Rosenberg AB9MZ is and he will be the speaker at our September meeting speaking about how you can be better prepared when disaster strikes. Gregg's outstanding knowledge base on this topic will no doubt give you food for thought on how to better protect your family when a disaster event hits your family or neighborhood. Please join me in attending this great night by a great Hamfester member won't you?

All aboard!! Tickets are going fast for the SS Badger Ham radio Cruise where you can operate your Ham radio on this great ship on the magnificent Lake Michigan on the dates of September 14th and 15th. Have you made your reservation? I have and I hope to see my fellow Hamfesters there too. Please go to www.ssbadger.com for more information and a phone number to call for rate information. Make sure you tell them this is for the Ham Radio event of the aforementioned dates and have your credit card handy.

Hey have you noticed??? We have seen a lot of new faces at our meetings of late! And come to think of it a lot of old familiar faces too! It tells me that word is out - This club is on a roll! You are the reason for this upsurge in interest in a club that has proven its mettle by thriving throughout its 80 year history with a membership who believes in the mission the club endeavors to support- To educate, promote, support and make practical the science, fellowship and worthiness of Amateur radio to one's life, family and community!! "Nuff said and 73 to all of you my friends from Nora and me.

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.

CQ Field Day de Jim KB9CYL

Thirty-one Hamfesters took to the field at Altman Park in Worth for the 2013 edition of Field Day. That was down from last year as was pretty much everything else. The bands were down so, consequently, scores were down and there weren't as many visitors. Still everyone had a great time. At least the weather cooperated. It was a little humid at times but there was no rain and it was neither too hot nor too cold.

Our first 100 bonus points came from Kerry Nelson AA9SB who got us some publicity in the May 24th edition of the Southwest News Herald. Our second 100 bonus points were scored by Al Bukowski N9ZD as he was able to copy the FD bulletin from the ARRL. He did it in PSK 31 and RTTY, just to be sure.



On site first Saturday morning as usual was George N9VOK who did his assigned job of making sure the sun came up. Brian Davis W9HLQ was there to begin setting up the GOTA station along with Steve Peters W9KXT and Gene Phillips W9PNG who made his first FD contact at the GOTA station. Others filtered in as the morning went on.

Tim Symanski KC9POS brought his modified Dodge pickup truck with the new-for-this-year tent 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 station. Special thanks to Ray Paschke NW9S, Wayne Strickland W9BBB, Mike Kiley WA9ZPM, and George Kirn N9PNO who came out to help getting the masts up for the trailer station.

Before long, setup was done and it was time for lunch. Bob N9KWG and Cathy KC9NRH Fleischmann treated us to burgers and hotdogs on the grill along with a ton of sides. We also feasted on Helen Pawlikowski's meatballs.

After a brief meeting, it was time to begin. We got our natural power bonus points right off the bat as Tim's VHF-UHF station was totally solar-powered. The GOTA tent got the benefit of Tom Gulick's solar-charged battery.

And so it went all afternoon. The bands weren't cooperating and contacts were hard to come by but your team did the best they could. There was also some interference between 40 meter CW and the GOTA tent. We will resolve that next year.

Our GOTA call was K9MS in honor of the late Matt Sobczak. Thanks to Matt's family for allowing us to use his call and for providing copies of his license.

Bob Richter KB9YXH provided mostaccioli for our Saturday dinner. It was great and there was plenty of it.

Nighttime operations went on as usual. Patti Gulick KC9LYE ran the Night Patrol from the GOTA tent while Tim KC9POS tried to make contact with a satellite during its one and only pass of the day. He never even heard it. The trailer and GOTA stations operated through the night. I was able to make a good run 40 meter phone from 0830 to 1030Z from the GOTA station.

In the morning we were treated with the usual yummy breakfast cooked on site and served by Ed Broniarczyk WA9EOL.

Hamgab, August 2013

After breakfast we even got our beloved president Don Pointer KC9EQQ to make a few calls. There was a nice opening on ten meters and he took advantage of it.

All too soon it was time to tear down and enter another Field Day into the books. The site is reserved for next year. We'll see you all there.

Kurt WB9FMC took top honors in the CW category with 414 contacts, almost twice what he did last year. Due to some confusion with entering operator's call or initials into the updated N3FJP logging software there is no way to know what anyone else did. We will address that issue next year.

Other club members who participated but are not mentioned above are: Matt Bukowski KC9CDM, Dave Bukowski N9KPD, Ron Kalat, KB9TCX, Ron Carlson KB9ZBN, Rich Schneider KA9HMY, Gregg Rosenberg AB9MZ, Tom Bryan KC9JZF, Herb Majer KC9OOK, Nora Pointer KC9MLV, Eric KC9OOM and Steve KC9OOL Hennenfent, Linas Matonis KC9PCP, Ed Egan WB9STB, Jim Wognum KC9WEZ, and Jim Liston N9HSH.

Thanks to everyone for another great Field Day. I'm looking forward to next year.

Here is the breakdown as sent to the ARRL:

Call Used: W9AA	GOTA Station Call: K9MS	ARRL/RAC Section: IL	Class: 4A
Participants: 47	Club/Group Name: Hamfesters Radio Club		
Power Source(s): 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 served agency official	100
Youth element	60
GOTA Bonus	60
Submitted via the Web	50
Educational activity	100
Total Bonus Points	1,270

Full QSO Breakdown						
	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	PWR (w)	QSOs	PWR (w)	QSOs	PWR (w)
160m						
80m					75	100
40m	100	100				
20m	414	100	58	100	92	100
15m					98	100
10m					11	100
6m						
2m					20	
1.25cm					2	
Other						
GOTA					134	100
Satellite						
TOTAL	514		58		432	1004

General Meeting Minutes – Patti, KC9LYE

Hamfesters W9AA Amateur Radio Club Meeting July 12, 2013 @ 7:00 PM.

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

Tonight there were; 40 members, & 12 visitors.

Color guard from the Chicago Ridge V.F.W. Post 177, our own Ron Kalat KB9TCX, is a member of post 177.

There was no June 23rd board meeting due to a power failure.

President Report: by Don KC9EQQ, welcome to all visitors.

Country western singer Cal Star will perform at our 80th anniversary Christmas party on Dec. 6th, 7:00 PM at Papa Joe's in Orland Park, tickets are \$25.00 each.

Tickets will go on sale after the hamfest. If we sell 80 tickets we can get the large room.

There's a box of free stuff here tonight.

Programs: Tonight was our annual picnic August's program will feature Kerry, AA9SB, discussing our 2013 Hamfest.

Hamfest & Field Day: Report by Jim KB9CYL, please buy hamfest tickets tonight. Take hamfest fliers. The Field Day report 2013 is ready, it's here tonight, take a look.

Adjournment: 7:25 PM



Technician Class this Fall: Help Needed

Hamfesters is planning on teaching a technician license class beginning in September. We need your help in locating a suitable training room that the club can afford (no charge, hopefully). If you have access to a meeting room, class room, church meeting room (in our area) - please contact Brian, W9HLQ ASAP! Watch our web site for training details: www.hamfesters.org/licensing-class



Thanks, Brian, W9HLQ
w9hlq@arrl.net 708-532-5833

WANTED: Help finding a laptop that works -- can be an older OS but one that has Microsoft Office Word-for-Windows on it. Extremely reasonable or haz/mat give-away. Kerry, AA9SB, 708-335-4574, or kw_nelson@earthlink.net. Thanks!

Hamfest Ticket Sales de Jim KB9CYL

It's hard to believe the hamfest is almost here, but it's right around the corner. That means it's time to do your final selling and get your cash and unsold tickets (hopefully few) turned in. You must have ALL cash and unsold tickets turned in by the August meeting. Advance sales close that night. If you haven't taken tickets to sell but want some for yourself, the August meeting is the place to be. I'll have plenty of them to sell as will other sellers who are trying to unload their remaining tickets. Tickets at the gate are two bucks more and offer you only one chance to win a prize.

So how are we doing this year? Not too well. We have 70 sold thus far, as opposed to 136 at the same time last year. There are still 223 out there so there's still some hope of covering the cost of the fairgrounds.

In the race for top ticket seller, yours truly has a comfortable lead over W9HLQ and KC9NRH who are tied for second place, with W9KXT a close third.

I hope everyone keeps me very busy at the meeting. See you there.



A photo of a retired F-117 Nighthawk Stealth Fighter taken at the Davis-Monthan boneyard in Tucson, Arizona

Hamfest Update – August 2013 de Kerry AA9SB

This'll be the last update before the hamfest. As we reported last month, Will Jahr, K9VQA, has retired from his hamfest activities, although you can contact him about his products via his website. We're anticipating hearing from our other vendors in these final weeks. The public service "vendors" are adding to space at our hamfest. In addition to the Will County ARES, the NWS Skywarn booth will be set up next to them by the ARRL table next to ours.

Dave Bukowski, N9KPD, our Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator, will be looking for volunteers to sign up for assignments for the various Hamfest positions – ticket sales, security, prize table, VE testing, or set-up. Speaking of which, he'll also be helping John Levickas, AB9JW, Set-up Coordinator, with a new map for the vendors. Remember: we'll be setting-up about ten on the Saturday morning before the fest. This may be moved back to noon or one o'clock but no later than that.

If you're going to one of the upcoming hamfests, be sure to bring our 2013 Hamfest flyers with you and drop them off at their club table -- and pass them out. Get the word out. We're going all out to make this hamfest a huge success. And don't forget to get your tickets -- either from our Ticket Sales Coordinator Jim Riley, KB9CYL, or from one of our ticket sellers and SELL them.

We'll have more updates at the August meeting; don't miss it -- our big HAMFEST ROUNDUP. See you then!

--Kerry Nelson, AA9SB, Hamfest Committee chairperson

Hamfest Update – July 2013

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

Editor's Ramble

The Human Brain Project

Computers have come a long way since the early days. Modern computers can perform billions of calculations per second and store massive amounts of information. However, when it comes to certain tasks, computers still pale in comparison to the human brain. While even older computers could far surpass any human at mathematics, anyone who has used Siri, the voice assistant on the Apple iPhones, knows that computers often fail both at understanding human speech and interpreting that speech correctly. Siri, among other systems, is one of the most advanced examples of the field of Artificial Intelligence, or the effort to create computer systems that mimic the intelligence of humans.

While Artificial Intelligence, or AI, is still a developing field, massive progress has been made. The computer known as *Deep Blue* can make decisions about the best chess moves and has beaten top humans. Multiple universities have developed cars that can, through various sensors, observe and respond to the world around them in order to automatically drive themselves. An IBM supercomputer called *Watson* competed against Jeopardy champions and won, representing one of the most sophisticated tasks an AI has ever taken on to date. Even so, there are limitations. All these tasks have relatively narrow rules for the computers to follow. To sum it up, even though the cars may drive themselves, they do not make the decisions about where to go.

However, a new project seeks to change all that. The Human Brain Project aims to develop current AI technologies to the level where they can simulate a human brain inside a massive supercomputer within the next ten years. Dubbed “Cern for the brain” due to its massive scope and budget (1.6 billion), the project will pair together neuroscientists and computer experts from across the globe to build, piece by piece, a virtual reconstruction of the brain that can behave like a real one. Recently, a team in Switzerland made some initial steps, developing a chip that mimics the way human brains are structured, using a changeable network of small connections rather than more conventional computer architecture. While the project still has a long way to go, scientists are hopeful that this massive international effort can bring forth great strides in our computing technology and help to unlock new secrets of the human brain.

You can read more about the Human Brain Project at www.humanbrainproject.eu



Image credit: Dick Sylvan, W9CBT. Used with Permission

Hamfesters VE Testing: By Al Bukowski N9ZD

Hamfesters Radio club VE's administered FCC Amateur Radio exams on July 13, 2013 at the Oak Forest City Hall 15440 S. Central Ave. Oak Forest, ILL 60452. We had two candidates in which both earned a Technician Ticket. Congratulations to the candidates. The VE's who helped at this exam session were: Tim AA9BV, Ron WB9JYZ, Ron N9STU, Gene KB9RNM, Bob N9JYX. Thank You to all VE's for taking the time with the exam sessions.

Hamfesters Radio Club 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 about 9:15 AM. Enter through the main City Hall 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 at the Annual Hamfester's Hamfest in Peotone, ILL. Sunday August 4, 2013 (8:00 AM to 10:30 AM).

A session will also be held the following weekend, Saturday August 10, 2013 at Oak Forest City Hall 15440 S. Central Ave. Oak Forest, ILL 60452. (9:00 AM to 10:30 AM).

Very important: Please remember to bring the following items with you to any exam session: The appropriate fee - cash only (currently \$15) for the test. Please bring your picture ID, the original and a copy of your Amateur Radio license (if licensed), 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) from the FCC, 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 please bring all CSCE's 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



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Hamgab, August 2013



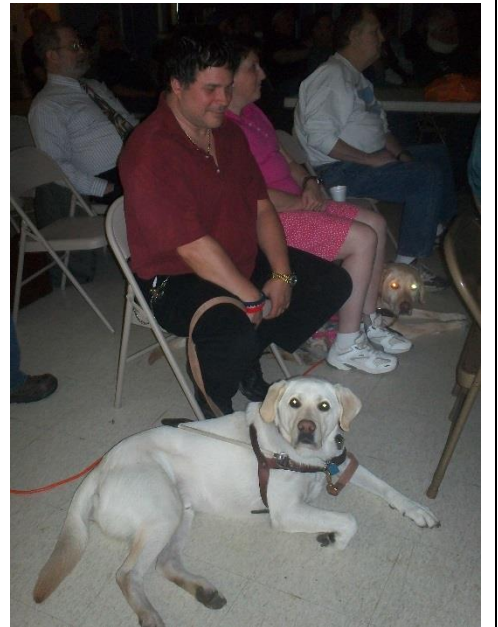
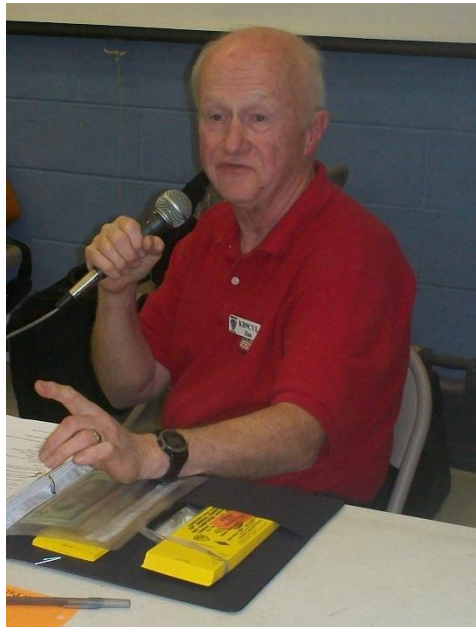
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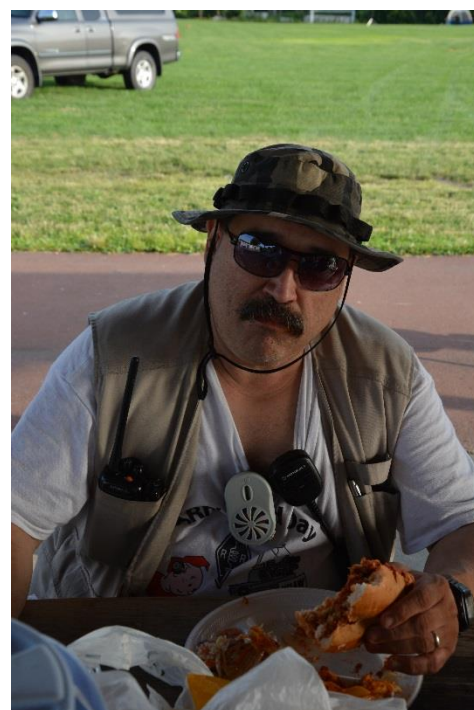
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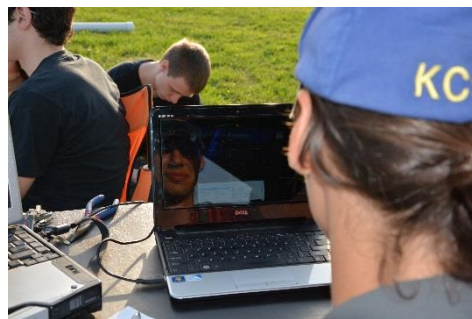
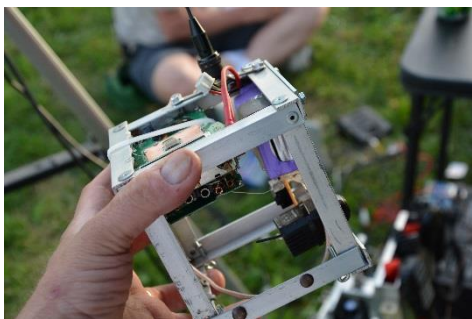
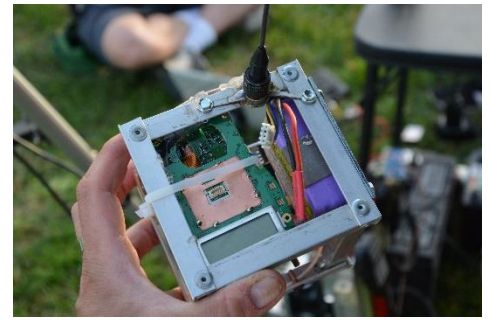
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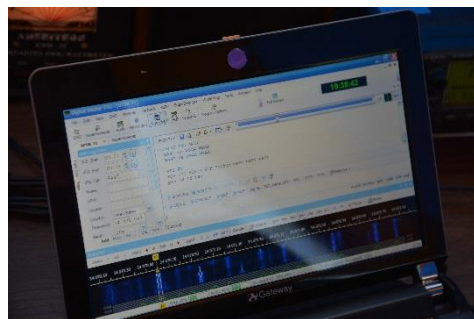
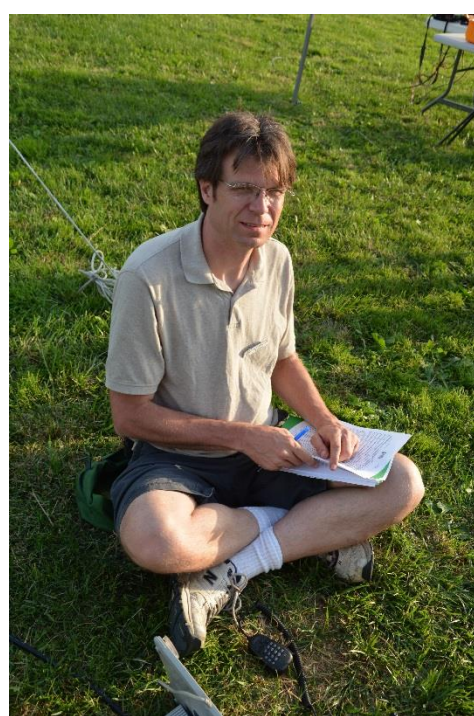
Hamgab, August 2013



Hamgab, August 2013



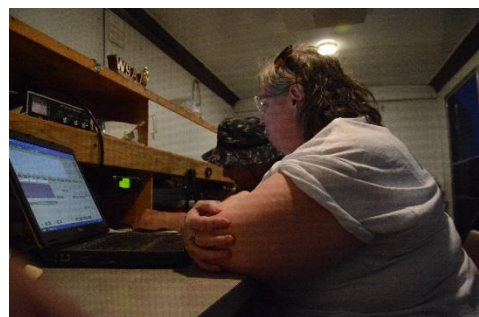
Hamgab, August 2013



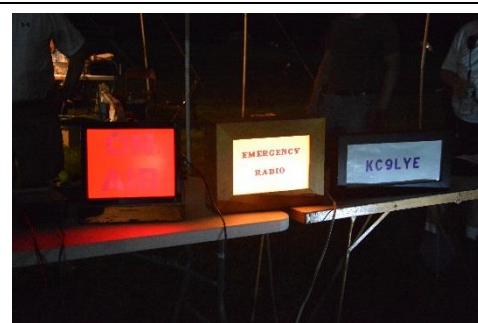
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Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 102

Bedford Park, IL 60499-0102

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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. Al 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 KA9KBV & 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.