



# Ham Gab

Next meeting: Oct. 4th

October 2013

PO Box 474  
Crestwood, IL  
60445-0474

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

### Special Interest Articles

Hamfest update pg. 5  
Helical Antennas pg. 7

### October Birthdays

Wayne W9BBB  
James KB9CYL  
Thomas WB9CZR  
Daniel AA9DA  
David WG9J  
John WB9JTS  
Robert N9JYX  
Ronald WB9JYZ  
Stanley W9KME  
Kerry AA9SB  
Joseph KB9TCZ  
Tom KA9ZNX  
James Twohig (no  
callsign)

### 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

### Hamgab Editors

Steve & Eric  
KC9OOL & KC9OOM  
Scapstone@aol.com

Last month's meeting included a tribute to Joe KA9KBU. Many on his family members were able to attend. Our friend Joe will be missed. See the picture on page 8.



### Club Notes

We enjoyed Gregg AB9MZ's talk on being ready for an emergency. It is something every ham needs to know. Thanks Gregg

We hope the SS Badger trip went well for the club members who attended. We'll try to get some pictures for a future HamGab issue.

Our October meeting will feature Software Defined Radios. See the trailer below.

Our November meeting will feature our White Elephant Sale and club elections. The annual Christmas party will be on December 6. Tickets are on sale now.

### Ham Radio, SDR, and You

The idea or concept of a software defined radio (SDR) may sound confusing or intimidating. This may lead to caution or a reluctance to bother to investigate a SDR set up. Some will say I don't know about or care to get into computer programming. So what is all the fuss about SDR?



Ken Buser, W9IE, and Brian Davis, W9HLQ, will review the basics of the software defined radio. Our brief discussion and demo of several SDR configurations will clear away some of the mystery of the SDR. The idea of SDR is fascinating and exciting and one you should know about. We will cover the issues of why we care about SDR and what it can do for us. We will show you how to get started with several inexpensive configurations and also feature a top of the line Flex-Radio 6700.

**THE HT WILL BE RAFFLED AT THE NEXT MEETING . DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR CHANCE TO WIN AND REMEMBER TO BUY A REGULAR RAFFLE TICKET AT THE NEXT MEETING.**



# THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ

OCTOBER 2013



If you were there at our meeting in September you might agree it was one of our most eclectic gatherings we have had in recent memory to say the least wasn't it? And that is not a bad thing! The evening began with a wonderful memorial tribute to our recently departed fellow member and friend, Joe Kratky KB9KBU. Several members of Joe's family were present to hear some truly heartfelt words from so many of you who came up to speak about their experiences and friendships with Joe. Thank you to all of you who were there to honor this truly great guy named Joe KB9KBU.

Round 2 of the meeting was the great presentation on Emergency Communications and preparation at your home with those communications before disaster strikes by fellow member Gregg Rosenberg AB9MZ. Gregg has always been tops in his field of Emergency Management concepts and he showed us why he is indeed tops with his well-rounded program.

Round 3 brought us Pete K9OWQ gave a great update on the Badger trip that was forthcoming. (More on that trip in a moment). Thank you Pete for your generous time that you gave for your fellow members.

*Did you see that?* Well I did and I bet you saw that incredible display of portable Radio equipment also at the September meeting that was provided by Jim N9HSH and Cindy N9CAS. Thanks to both of you for that cool exhibit!

The October meeting promises to be one that shows how a glimpse into the future will actually be a peek at the present as Brian W9HLQ and Ken W9IE will be the guest speakers that night as they present their program on Software Defined Radio, otherwise known as SDR, and what it means to the future of Ham Radio as we know it, and how SDR is going to drive up the excitement factor in Ham radio considerably. They will clarify what SDR is all about and I am anxious to learn about this next generation of Ham radio.

In addition, to the program in October, it will also be the night for you to nominate your fellow members for the positions of Board members, and Officers. It is with this in mind, that I announce that all current Officers, (Secretary Patti KC9LYE, Treasurer Ed WA9EOL, Vice President Jim KB9CYL and yours truly), have all agreed to run again for another term in our respective offices that we currently hold. It is for us an honor to head up this great organization and surely hope we can continue to do so with your support in the coming year of 2014. We encourage everyone to get involved by running for a seat on the board or officers spot and get in on the action as it were, in helping to direct this club in the path that has been set forth- a path that will keep it solvent, exciting, educating, and most importantly friendly and inviting. That last part is the most important in my mind, because keeping things friendly and inviting means friendships are made, knowledge is shared and fellowship within the club is strengthened, thus contributing to indeed a rich and exciting experience for all members for years to come.

Two people who keep this club exciting and strong would be none other than the Husband and wife team of Bob N9RAT and Kelly KB9ZRM. Both have been Hamfester members since to my reckoning, 2001. Over the years, this Team Dynamo have been there frequently at Field days, Fourth of July Picnics and the like with lots of food for the troops, helping with Ham gab, running the Argonne net on different nights and over all have shown a remarkable commitment on their part to making this club into what it is today, one of the most desired clubs for Chicago area Hams to be a part of. Last year, this grand couple received The Hamfester of the year award, which they so richly deserved. Thank you Kelly and Bob for your friendship and Loyalty to all your fellow members. Great job guys!

I am hearing some great stories from all who attended the recent S.S. Badger Trip that highlighted the use of Ham Radio during the trip. Some stories from that trip are just too hilarious and are I dare say, will be shared in a planned program this winter at one of our meetings. I look forward to those stories, photos and videos at that program and we will announce its date in due time. At this most recent board meeting, it was conveyed that the Captain and staff of the Badger were extremely impressed with all Hams who were on board with their professionalism, friendliness and willingness to promote Ham radio to anyone who asked. Rumor has it another trip might be in the future next year. The Captain said Hams are welcome back anytime and that is very satisfying to my ears. Good show fellow Hams! Thank you Pete K9OWQ for making this trip happen my friend.

**Back on the beat:**

**Worth repeating:** This year is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our club. To celebrate it, we will have none other than Country Star, Mr. Cal Starr as the featured performer at our Christmas Party on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Papa Joes Restaurant in Orland Park, starting at 7pm this year. For only \$25.00 per person, a night of great fellowship, dinner, awards and entertainment await you! Tickets will be on sale at our October meeting, Please see Jim KB9CYL at the meeting for those tickets. Tickets can also be obtained by contacting Jim at his shop called Rileys Trick shop in Palos Hills. A downloadable form that will soon be available off of our Hamfesters website will enable you to order tickets to this event also. Directions how to do this will be provided at the time we introduce this exciting new way of ordering tickets! Last date to obtain tickets will be Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, so don't delay.

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 as **HAMFESTERS!** Remember, 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 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary only comes around once in a lifetime!!

November's meeting will be our White Elephant sale and Elections for Officers and Board members. That is always a busy night and if you want a good table to sell your goodies, please arrive at 6pm. Also, bring extension cords for people to test what you have to sell. Please, I also ask that you bring a friend with to watch your table while you go browsing for yourself at other vendor's tables, as Hamfesters is not responsible for lost, or missing items from your table. Have all items priced to make it easier to sell and to avoid discrepancies in what an item is being sold for. We appreciate your help in these regards. Riley KB9CYL said he will bring a portable cash station if your low on cash, but be forewarned- he charges 50 percent interest for each transaction!! (Couldn't resist Jim!)

I conclude my column today with offering my condolences to the family of Walter Johnson KC9DJI, who became SK on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. Wally, (as we knew him), was my dear friend for over 30 years and had begun to attend some of our meetings and was going to join soon, till he developed health issues. He was known by a good many Hams in the Chicago area, thus I felt it necessary to recognize his passing and our friendship. He was a fellow Officer with me on Bridgeview EMA, a Mason, a retired Firefighter, great friend and one heckuva of a husband to wife Debbie and father to their son Michael. You will be missed my friend I assure you. On Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm, I invite you to join us in a celebration of his life at the Tinley Park Masonic Temple located at 6825 W. 170<sup>th</sup> street in Tinley Park. My wife Nora and I hope to see you there. I know his family will appreciate it.

Take care everybody and 73 to all of you.

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 de Patti, KC9LYE

Hamfesters W9AA Amateur Radio board meeting Aug.26, 2013

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, ED WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Mike W9MCS,

John WB9JTS, Nora KC9MLV, Steve W9KXT, Cathy KC9NRH, Kerry AA9SB.

Visitors: Mike W9ZPM, Gene W9PNG, & Brian W9HLQ.

President's Report: by Don KC9EQQ, the board would like to thank Bob N9JYX, for going to Joe's KA9KBU, house and picking up items that belong to the club, especially things needed at our club meetings.

At the Sept. 6th meeting before Gregg's AB9MZ, program, we will ask for memories of Joe Kratky KA9KBU. Joe died suddenly on Aug. 15th.

Christmas Party tickets @ \$25.00 each will go on sale on Sept. 6th. only 90 tickets will be sold. The party Friday Dec. 6th @ 7:00PM @ Papa Joe's in Orland Park. Cal Star will perform that night. There will be an order form for tickets @ Hamfesters.org and an order form in the Hamgab.

Health & Welfare: Steve W9KXT, attended a memorial service for Joe Schraider, he was a ham. Mr Schraider wrote books on these topics: amateur radio, & guns.

Education: by Brian W9HLQ, the technician course will begin on Sept. 12th, there are five students.

Treasurer's Report: by Ed WA9EOL, Hamfesters received money from the estate sale of Ed Andrews. Our club handled the sale of ham gear.

S.S. Badger: The trip Sept. 14-15th Steve W9KXT, is bringing his HF gear. And, Jim KB9CYL, is bringing HF gear that belongs to Hamfesters. Think of this trip as "field Day on the water". If you're going to bring HF gear, bring everything/anything you'll need. We've been told that we can put up antennas anywhere we choose.

Keep an open mind, either way we'll have a good time.

Old Business: Hamfesters now has two P.O. Boxes; Bedford Park, & Midlothian (Crestwood has the same zip code as Midlothian).

Don KC9EQQ, & Gene W9PNG, each have a key to the new box.

Hamfest 2013: by Kerry AA9SB, Dale Armstrong, he's in charge of the Peotone fairgrounds, said that indoor electricity is free. The outdoor electricity was increased to \$20.00. We lost vendors due to illness & death. We received help from: Steve Zahos, Earl Stickler, Ron Ross, Mike Lowden, & Johnnie Duffie.

Report by Mike WA9ZPM, tried to improve the P.A. system, but he needs to speak to the fairground's electrician.

Hamfest 2014: Hamfest will be the first weekend in August. At the Will County fairgrounds in Peotone, ILL. Hamfesters will have the fairgrounds on Saturday & Sunday. Saturday will be vendors setup, and the vendors cookout on Sat. night. The hamfest is on Sunday the outdoor fleamarket, and in the main building in the bar area, and the north room.

We will invite dealers from: Yaesu, Kenwood, etc.

We have family activities.

For 2014 vendors will be encouraged to buy tables early, offering discounts.

In our contract with the fairgrounds we will state; "Hamfesters is not responsible for lost, or stolen merchandise."

More hamfest ideas; club's officers, & board members will wear special tee shirts.

On Sunday of the hamfest 6:00-8:00AM there will be a barrel for raffle ticket stubs by the club's trailer.

Website: Brian W9HLQ, & Gene W9PNG, the board approved that Hamfesters.org will be linked to a search engine. There will be a blog on the website.

New Business: Jim KB9CYL, is resigning as advanced Hamfest ticket sales chairmen. Jim will still handle ticket sales at the hamfest gates. Jim will help the new ticket chairmen.

Programs: Sept. 6th Gregg AB9MZ Getting Ready for Emergency

Oct. Club Nominations, and Brian W9HLQ, & Ken W9IE, Software Driven Radios

Nov. Club Elections, & Annual White Elephant Sale

Dec. 6th Christmas Party

Adjournment: @ 9:30PM Jim KB9CYL, & Steve W9KXT.

# General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters Club meeting Sept. 6, 2013 @ 7:30 PM  
Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE  
Secretary Note: by Patti KC9LYE, Oops, my bad. I forgot the sign up sheets from tonight's meeting. So, I can't double check names, & call signs. And, there's no attendance count for tonight. Joe KA9KBU, or Rich N9UNQ, would give me these sheets.

I'll remember them next time.

President's Report: by Don KC9EQQ, Thanks to Brian W9HLQ, & Gene W9PNG, for keeping our club's website current. Today's Paul's Birthday.

Joe Kratky's KA9KBU, family is here tonight. Joe's brothers and their wives; Paul & Lisa, Glen & Maureen. Joe KA9KBU, died suddenly last month, we paid tribute to him sharing our memories of this wonderful man.

Joe's family will be our guests at the Christmas Party on Dec. 6th @ Papa Joe's in Orland Park @ 7:00 PM.

Tickets for the Christmas party are \$25.00 each contact Jim KB9CYL. Singer Cal Starr will perform at the party.

Visitors: John KC9FIN, he donated raffle prizes. Jennifer N9GZL, Brock K9FGI, who hasn't been here in a year.

Programs: Tonight "Being Ready for an Emergency" by Gregg AB9MZ. Nice job, Gregg.

October Nominations for officers, & board members. And, Brian W9HLQ, & Ken W9IE, "Software Driven Radios" November Club Elections, & our annual white elephant sale.

December 6th Christmas party

Education & Website: by Brian W9HLQ, & Gene W9PNG, Ed Andrew's estate has donated money to Hamfesters.

The Sept. 12th Technician class is cancelled, due to low enrollment.

New member Cindy N9CAS, Welcome!

Hamfesters has a second P.O. Box this one is in Midlothian (Crestwood doesn't have a P.O. Box) Midlothian, & Crestwood have the same zip code.

Report by Gene W9PNG, our club's website Hamfesters.org has a new feature, a blog officers & board members can post.

Treasurer's Report: by Ed WA9EOL, The bills for hamfest 2013 are paid, and we made a profit. We've booked the fair grounds for Sat. & Sun. Aug. 2-3, 2014 Saturday is the setup, & the vendor's dinner. Sunday is the hamfest.

Hamfest & Publicity: by Kerry AA9SB, Thanks, to all who helped make hamfest 2013 a success. Vendors for 2014 are already being contacted. Publicity for tonight's club meeting & the Sept. 12th Technician class has been sent.

Secretary Report: by Patti KC9LYE, my computer is dead, there might not be any minutes for the September Hamgab.

Prize Chairmen: by Bob KB9YXH, tickets are \$5.00 each to win an HT

Don't miss your chance to win one of these nice transceivers.

S.S. Badger: by Pete K9OWQ, on Friday Sept. 13th Steve W9KXT, Peggy K9QLM, & Don K9KNZ, will arrive in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. They'll supervise the installing of antennas on the S.S. Badger.

The Badger will sail on Saturday Sept. 14th heading for Ludington, Michigan. The Badger will return to Manitowoc on Sunday Sept. 15th.

Twenty Hamfesters have signed up for the trip.

New Business: by Al N9ZD, Dave N9KBD, has the weather spotters certificates, go to Hamfesters.org Also, Dave N9KBD, would like **volunteers** on Oct. 19th for a Fun Run at the College of DuPage.

Ron KB9TCX, Tom KA9ZXN, needs **volunteers** for the Iron Dog on Sept. 15th.

adjournment: @ 10:00 PM

door prize raffle winners: Jim N9HSH, Cindy N9CAS, Steve W9KXT, Dwayne KB9FTM, Linas KC9PCP, Kerry AA9SB, Jim KB9CYL, Ron KB9ZBN



## Hamfest Update de Kerry AA9SB

New and revised table reservation forms have been created for 2014, noting no electric charge for indoor vendors (re Dale Armstrong, as we noted in the final 2013 Hamfest Report, last month) while noting the increase in the electric charge for flea marketers. Hopefully, this will encourage more potential vendors to sign up for the exhibition hall. And the new TRFs are being sent out early this year.

As it stands now, we have commitments from 5-6 vendors for North Room for next years, plus commitments from Mike Lowden, from Tri-Town, and Johnnie Duffie from Hazel Crest, both of whom have committed for the entry room, which essentially means that all we have to worry about is the South Room. At this point, not only can we fill the North Room and entry room, but may start ahead of time to get the South Room booked up as well (!). We'll also be searching out new vendors: Debco Electronics offered to come last year, and might be coming back next year – perhaps to lead off the booking for the South Room. We're also going to make more of an effort to make to get missing-in-action vendors back (Hinsey, etc.). We're also going to make it clear that we'll set up no more tables than we need (not 100 tables) as was the case last.

In the coming ten months, until Hamfest 2014, Dave, N9KPD, our Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator, will be looking for people to sign up for assignments for the various Hamfest positions – ticket sales, security, prize table, VE testing, or set-up. Please contact him in advance if there are any positions you'd like to serve in

To our regret (and mine in particular), Jim, KB9CYL, is resigning as Hamfest Ticket Sales Coordinator. Thanks, Jim, you're a pillar of this event -- not to mention this club. A new ticket sales coordinator needs be found, so contact Dave, N9KPD, if you think you'd like to take up the reins. Thanks a million again, Jim, for all your years of service.

We're going to get the word out. We're going all out to make this Hamfest 2014 a huge success. When the tickets come out in January, take some and SELL them.

--Kerry, AA9SB, HRC Hamfest chair,  
kw\_nelson@earthlink.net

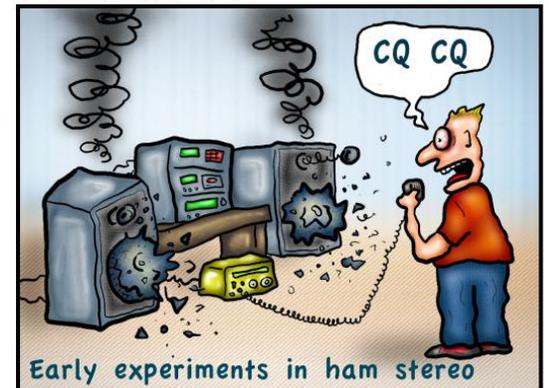
### 73 Magazine

As you may have heard, Wayne Green, W2NSD passed away recently. He was the owner and creator of "73" **Magazine**". Some years ago he put his entire collection of "73" magazines in the public domain. They are available for your reading pleasure at the Archive listed below. You can get the magazines in Kindle, PDF format, EPUB, read it online, and several other formats. Here is your chance to review old issues and try out some of the many cool circuits that the magazine was famous for. Or perhaps, you can read some of Wayne's editorials about many topics.

<http://archive.org>

73,  
- =Brian, W9HLQ= -

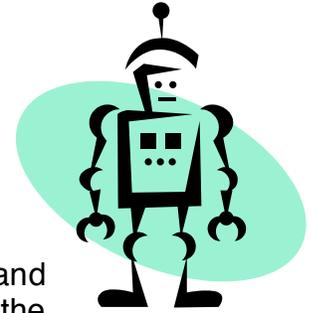
### DOCTOR FUN



Hamgab, October 2013  
**A Quiet Revolution is Happening**

**Maker Faire** and **DIY**, what does this all mean?

As you can see by my links I am excited and encouraged that many people including the younger folks are "discovering" technology and then making things from it! There is a mini-revolution with interest in technology going on quietly in forums and gatherings around the world.



The DIY (Do It Yourself) and home experimenting with technical ideas is alive and well. The DIY concept for home maintenance has been around for years, since the days of Builders Square, Home Depot, ACE Hardware, and other sources such as handbooks and repair manuals. But we are talking about the idea of experimenting and making things yourself either to learn or solve a problem around the house. Perhaps the idea is frivolous, but the idea is that the builder had to solve some knotty technical problems. For example, how about the video (included in the list below) where a chap build a rolling La-Z-Boy chair with electric motors, wheels, and steering. He uses it to relax and scoot around a local Maker Faire show looking at the entries in comfort. Or learning to program a micro computer to flash some lights, or release a camera shutter on a timed basis. As you look around you will be amazed at the creativity and broad scope of ideas people are working on. Many are doing it as a part of a club project while others are simply "playing" with ideas and then showing them at a gathering such as Maker Faire.

Today this curiosity and investigation is certainly more organized than when I was a kid playing with Erector Sets and balky Lionel trains. Here are some links to find out more about the DIY and Maker phenomenon going on worldwide. This includes electronic devices as well as crafts and other hobbies. Many companies have sprung up to supply the needs of these hobbyists. Even Radio Shack is trying to get involved....if only they could figure out what is going on.

Follow some of these links and learn more. Links to Maker Fairs (Faire) and DIY tech stuff:

<http://makerfairechicagonorthside.com>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maker\\_Faire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maker_Faire) read this! check out the gatherings all over the world.

This must create a lot of techies. Too bad more schools are not plugged into this.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DIY> not so informative in current form

<http://de.amiando.com/makerfaire2013.html> German offering with 3D printer and a robot

<http://makerfaire.com> seems to be the "big one"

<http://www.youtube.com/user/MakerFaireVideo> watch these videos. Truly amazing what people are doing.

<http://www.diypartssupply.com> parts for your project

<http://www.bgmicro.com> more parts

<http://www.adafruit.com> popular parts source started by a MIT graduate who saw the need for parts

I find all of this very exciting.... get on the internet, snoop around, and find out what is going on!

73,

-=Brian, W9HLQ=-

Reminder: **2014 dues** will be collected at the October meeting. Regular dues are \$20.00 and associate dues are \$10.00. Make checks payable to "Hamfesters Radio Club".

## Hamfesters VE Testing: de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

### Hamfesters VE Testing for September 2013

On September 14, 2013, Hamfester's Radio Club VE's administered tests to three individuals in which two individuals obtained a Technician ticket and one individual passed the Technician and General exams. Congratulations to the candidates. The participating VE's that volunteered their time were Bob N9JYX, Gene KB9RNM, Tim AA9BV, Ron WB9JYZ, and Ron N9STU. Thanks to all the VE's for your dedicated time.

Hamfester's Radio Club conducts FCC authorized tests for Technician, General, and Extra class licenses every 2nd Saturday each month at Oak Forest City Hall 15440 S. Central Ave. Oak Forest, IL 60452. Doors open at 9:00 AM. We begin testing about 9:15 AM. Enter through the main City Hall entrance and 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 October 12, 2013.

Do you know anyone who would like to take an Amateur Radio exam? It is very important to bring the following items to any exam session: The appropriate test fee (currently \$15). A picture ID (driver's license or Student ID Card etc), a calculator if you would like to use one. And it's very important to have your Social Security Number, or if you are licensed, please use the FRN (Federal Registration Number) listed on your license. If you are upgrading, Please bring you're Amateur Radio license and a copy and any issued CSCE and a copy showing proof of recent passed exam(s) if not already processed by the FCC. If you have any questions regarding our test session or about upgrading, please contact N9ZD via e-mail at: N9ZD@arrl.net.

Walk-ins are welcome and again test fee is \$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

## A Weak Solar Cycle



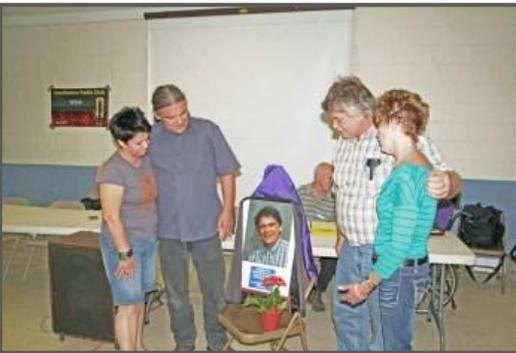
Though the sun is currently in the peak year of its 11-year solar weather cycle, our closest star has been rather quiet over all. This year's solar maximum is shaping up to be the weakest in 100 years and the next one could be even more quiescent. "It's the smallest maximum we've seen in the Space Age," During a solar maximum, the number of sunspots increases. These dark temporary regions on the surface of the sun are thought to be caused by interplay between the sun's plasma and its magnetic field. Sunspots are the source of the solar flares and ejections that can send charge particles hurtling toward Earth, which can damage satellites, surge power grids, cause radio blackouts and, more benignly, produce dazzling auroras above the planet.

About every 11 years, the sun goes through a cycle defined by an increasing and then decreasing number of sunspots. Solar Cycle 24 has been under way since 2011 and its peak was expected in 2013, but there have been fewer sunspots observed this year compared with the maximums of the last several cycles. The quiet maximum is allowing scientists to test their knowledge of how the sun works and hone their predictions of the strength of future solar cycles. A small Cycle 24 also fits in with a 100-year pattern of building and waning solar cycles. Scientists don't know exactly what causes this trend, but there were weak solar cycles in the beginning of the 19th and 20th centuries.  
*From space.com August 2013*

## September 2013 Meeting Pictures



Hamgab, October 2013





## Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 474

Crestwood, IL 60445-0474

[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 Crestwood Civic Center

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. AI 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

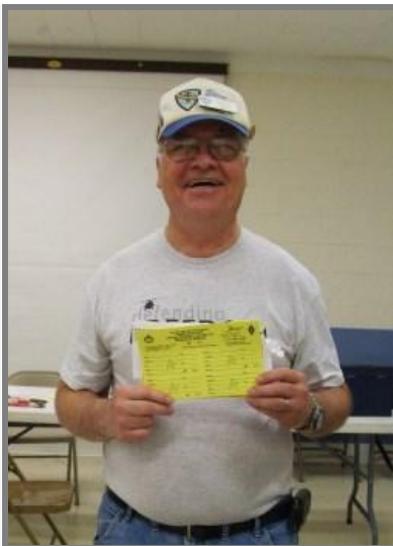
Club's address:  
Hamfesters Radio Club  
P.O. Box 474 Crestwood, IL 60445  
Patti KC9LYE Secretary

*Deadline for Submitting to the Hamgab is the fifteenth of the month.*

Hamgab, October 2013



Hamgab, October 2013



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