



# Ham Gab

Christmas Party Dec. 6th

December 2013

PO Box 474  
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[www.hamfesters.org](http://www.hamfesters.org)

## Special Interest Articles

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## December Birthdays

Robert K9MDO  
Richard N9UNQ  
Ron KB9ZBN  
Al N9ZD  
Dorothy N9ALC  
James KC9SOG  
Frank K9BWQ  
Steve W9KXT  
Michael WA9YJA

## 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

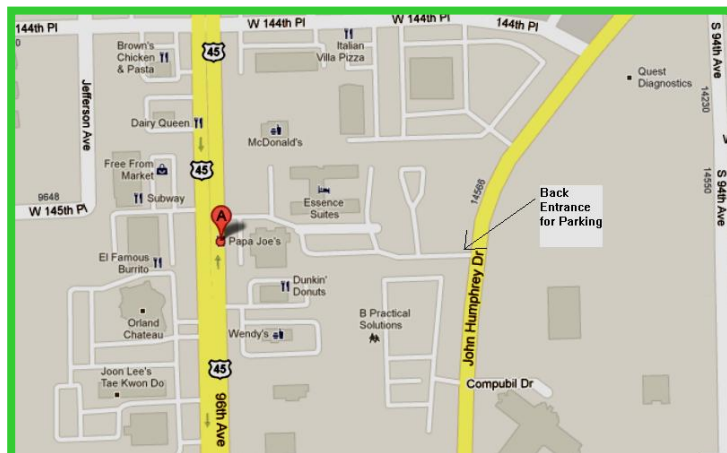
## Hamgab Editors

Steve & Eric  
KC9OOL & KC9OOM  
Scapstone@aol.com



# Christmas Party December 6!

*Our Hamfesters Christmas Party is on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Papa Joe's in Orland Park. Doors open at 6:30 PM-Dinner at 7 PM. This is the club's 80<sup>th</sup> year and as a special treat the legendary **Cal Star** will be performing. Tickets are \$25 each for club members and their families and \$35 for non members. Tickets can be purchased from Jim Riley KB9CYL. He will have tickets available at his store Riley's Trick Shop on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. There is also an order form on the Hamfesters Website. November 30<sup>th</sup> is the last day for ticket purchase. It will be a fantastic evening. We hope to see you there. Papa Joe's is located at 14459 S LaGrange RD. It's easier to come in from the back. See map below:*



It seems as if my column has been hacked by none other than Santa Claus! He seems to be here to promote the idea of how important it is for us to give to one another. Not just gifts, but that of which we can give from the heart- our time and commitment to all who enter our lives on a daily basis as strangers, friends and family. We as a club are the epitome of giving. We proved that when fellow members pass on and you my fellow members get out there and help the families of ones we have lost with your offers of help and kindness.

You the Hamfesters member prove it when you come to our meetings and help us set up our chairs, tables, sound systems and the like in preparation for any of our meetings. You offer willingly advice on how to fix that mobile radio or antenna that a colleague in the club is scratching their head as to how get back on the air again with. And you prove it by welcoming new members into the club and make them feel right at home. This spirit of giving that I see month after month, year after year at these meetings no doubt inspire one and all to give in our community right in our own back yard as well. Yes, I hear about how many of you are out there making a difference in the world out there and that really gladdens my heart. But would you expect anything else from a Hamfester club member?

This time of year many causes come to the forefront of our daily news imploring folks to help out with food drives, giving to the less fortunate in the way of clothes or maybe just lending an ear to someone who needs to be heard. And when you should decide to give of yourself, don't you find you get so much more back to you?

Point in case: Every year for the last eight or nine years, Nora dresses up as Santa's helper and I dress up as Santa Claus on a Saturday in December and we go visit the residents at the nursing home where my dad is at. We walk around the facility and give out treats, take some photos and listen to what these folks want from Santa. Many times all they want from Santa is a hug, and I, er, I mean Santa, is only too eager to oblige. What a feeling it is to feel that hug from someone who could really use one. So how about it folks? Can you put on your Santa suit so to speak and give someone a Santa Sized hug this holiday season? It could make a difference for them and perhaps you too! It's a gift no new IPAD can ever equal!

***Back on the beat:***

Congratulations to our new board members on being elected to one of the most important positions that there is to fill in this incredibly wonderful club of ours! I look forward to working with you next year, along with the rest of my fellow officers and board members!

The Argonne net lost a good one last week with the passing of its long time net controller Paul W9FNM. His voice was a like a gentle



warm breeze to experience with his down to earth brand of kindness and sincerity that he exuded every time he keyed up his mike and said, "Good evening this is W9FNM welcome to the Argonne Nite patrollers net." We will miss you Paul, and I am sure you are keeping Millie plenty good company in heaven. Give her our best Paul, as you gave your best to so many Ham operators for so many years. RIP dear friend and God Bless.

I hope I see many of you at the forthcoming Christmas party on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Papa Joes. Tickets will go fast and you don't want to miss our special guest performer in the guise of the one and only Cal Starr. Nor do you want to miss a great night of fellowship and fine food that always await your presence at Papa Joes. If you have attended our party in the past, make sure to spread the word to fellow members who have not attended before and stress just what a great time we have and what a great time they will have by attending this event that salutes and thanks all members for the great job in keeping this club what it is- the best Ham Radio club in the country!

Nora and I wish to say to you that no matter what holiday you celebrate in December, we hope you do so with good family and friends aplenty. Family and friends that bring warmth to your heart and blessings to your soul. Just like you do for Nora and I. We love you all and look forward to seeing you all soon at our next Hamfesters gathering.

P.S: Yes, that is me in the Santa photo above my column. Santa says Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night. 73 to you and yours.

***Don (Santa) KC9EQQ***

## Board meeting minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

Hamfesters W9AA Board Meeting Oct. 28, 2013 began @ 7:26PM

**Roll:** Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Mike W9MCS, Nora KC9MLV, Kurt WB9FMC, Cathy KC9NRH, Steve W9KXT, Kerry AA9SB, Brian W9HLQ, Pete K9OWQ

**President's Report:** by Don KC9EQQ, Ed WA9EOL, will open a club account at Bridgeview Bank for a PayPal account. It will be used for money collected from ticket purchases, & membership.

Thanks, to Mike W9MCS, & John WB9JTS, for the memorial service for Wally Johnson KC9DJI, on Oct. 22nd.

Christmas Party on Dec. 6th, Don will talk to club members at the meeting on Nov. 1st about inviting non-members to purchase tickets at \$35.00 each, the board is in favor. We need to sell 80 tickets for the party, member ticket price are \$25.00 each.

At the Jan. 2014 meeting we'll decide on the date for the next trip on the S.S. Badger.

**Programs:** Thanks, to Brian W9HLQ, & Ken W9IS, for their program on digital software radios.

Nov. 1st club elections for 5 board members Kurt WB9FMC, is the election chairmen. And, our Annual White Elephant Sale.

Dec. 6th Christmas party @ Papa Joe's Orland Park 7:00PM, setup @ 6:00PM.

Jan. 2014 possible program building a kit.

**Treasurer's Report:** by Ed WA9EOL.

**Secretary Report:** by Patti KC9LYE, Ed WA9EOL, will take care of the annual report to the Secretary of State.

**Education:** by Brian W9HLQ, classes in fall 2014.

Publicity & Hamfest: by Kerry AA9SB, publicity has been sent for the Nov. 1st meeting.

Kerry has ordered a lap top computer to use for hamfest duties.

**Constitution Chairmen:** by Kurt WB9FMC, Hamfesters constitution will appear in HamGab until Jan. 2014.

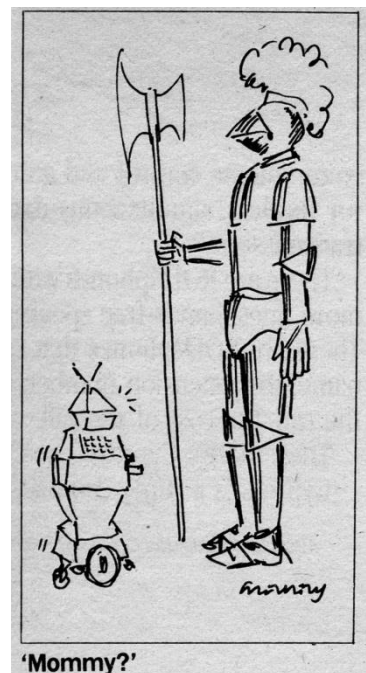
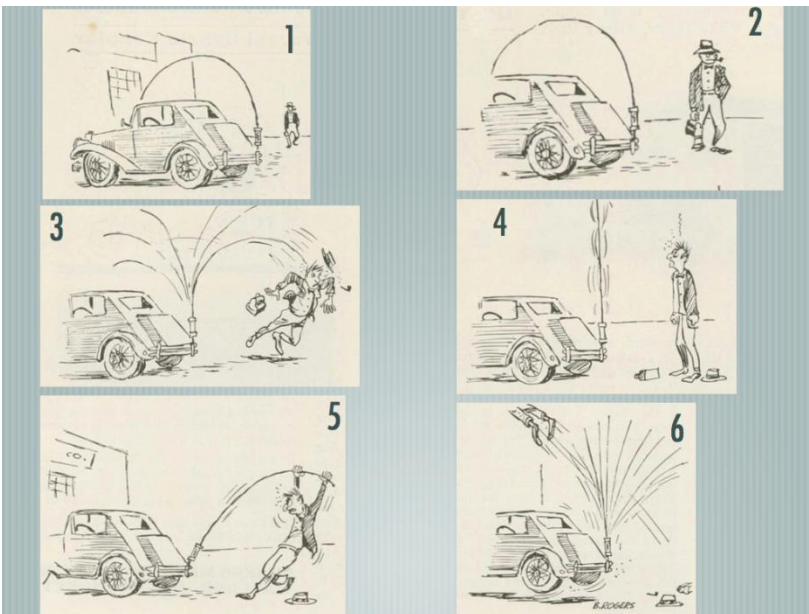
**Old Business:** Kurt W9FMC, will contact the winners of the Hamfest 2013 email drawing.

**New Business:** by Kurt W9FMC, his church is hosting a play "Romeo & Juliet 10 Years After" on Nov. 15th & 16th. tickets \$12.00 each.

**Adjournment:** 8:50PM approved by Cathy KC9NRH, 2nd by Ed WA9EOL



### The Whip Antenna !





## General meeting minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters club meeting Nov. 1, 2013 began @ 7:45PM

**Roll:** Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Rich W9UNQ

**Health & Welfare:** Brian Davis' W9HLQ, Mom is ill.

A moment of silence for Paul Begitschke W9FNM, a silent key. Paul was net control on the Nite Patrol, 2 meters net, on the Argonne repeater 145.1900 -PL from the 1980's until he retired on Dec. 6, 2007. The NP net continues every night @ 10:30PM CST. Check in's can joins us even on Echo-Link.

Tonight there were: 46 members, & 4 visitors.

**President's Report:** by Don KC9EQQ, There are 40 ticket sold for our Christmas party on Dec. 6th 7:00PM, setup @ 6:00PM, @ Papa Joe's in Orland Park. Tickets can be purchased using PayPal. We need to sell 80 tickets. Tickets will be sold to non-members @ \$35.00 each.

members \$25.00 each. The deadline is 4:00PM on Nov. 30th, contact Jim Riley KB9CYL.

**Education:** by Steve W9KXT, there will be license classes in spring 2014.

**Minutes:** The Oct. club minutes were approved by Ron KB9TCX, & 2nd by John KB9FQB.

**Treasurer's Report:** by Ed WA9EOL, approved by Jim N9HSH, 2nd by Kurt WB9FMC.

**S.S. Badger:** by Pete K9OWQ, the 2014 ham cruise on the Badger will be either the 2nd or 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in Sept. There will be a comfort station for service animals. The port side of the ship will be designated as accessible. And, the cruise line will advertise the ham cruise on the S.S. Badger in their 2014 itinerary.

**Programs:** Tonight election of board members for 2014, & our white elephant sale.

Dec.6th Christmas party

**Publicity & Hamfest:** by Kerry AA9SB, publicity was sent for tonight's meeting.

Hamfest 2014 vendor tables are being sold in the north room of the Will County Fair Grounds in Peotone, ILL.

The night before the hamfest there will be a pizza party @ the fair grounds for vendors & setup crew.

**Field Day:** by Jim KB9CYL, the numbers from FD 2013 will be published in the next issue of QST magazine. FD 2014 Pete K9OWQ, might run a 6 meters station.

**Certificate Chairmen:** by John AB9JW, Hamfesters certificates coming Jan. 2014.

**New Business:** by Don KC9EQQ, Thank You, Steve KC9OOL, & Eric KC9OOM for their work on Hamgab on-line. Bob KB9YXH, for being prize chairmen, printing & mailing issues of Hamgab. Nora KC9MLV, refreshment chairperson. Also, board members, officers, all the programs in 2013, & our V.E. testers.

The club's program calendar for 2014 is almost full.

By Mike W9MCS, the Medina Temple thanks to W9MGM, in the future will have a ham station.

By Kurt WB9FMC, his church is hosting a play on Nov.15, & 16th "Romeo & Juliet 10 Years After" Tickets are \$12.00 each. See Kurt for details.

The members of Hamfesters thank our President Don KC9EQQ.

Election Chairmen is Kurt WB9FMC, the 5 board members for 2014 are: Cathy KC9NRH, Nora KC9MLV, Mike W9MCS, Steve W9KXT, & Kurt WB9FMC.

**Adjournment:** @ 9:15PM approved by Bob N9RAT, 2nd by Pete K9OWQ.

### SS Badger Update for 2014

Due to popular demand and such a great time being had by all on the 1<sup>st</sup> SS Badger Cruise, the SS Badger Cruise will be back in 2014. The cruise will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in September. There will be a service animal station and hallways marked for wider traffic. Hope to see you there. Thanks Pete K9OWQ for the update.

## CQ Field Day 2013 de Jim Riley

We're number 1! That's right, your Field Day crew finished first in the 4A category (in the state of Illinois), beating out six other entries. Our 4,422 topped our nearest competitor's 3,652 by almost 800 hundred points.

Out of 169 total entries in 4A we came in 42<sup>nd</sup>, barely making it to the top 25 percent. That's still a respectable finish considering the equipment glitches and interference problems we had to deal with. We'll take steps to remedy those in 2014.

There's one category in which we still top everyone. Nobody eats better than we do.

Next month the work of doing better in 2014 will begin. For the month of December, let's just bask in our victory. Thanks once again to the 2013 Hamfesters Field Day team. Well done!

## Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

### Volunteers Examiners report November 2013

On November 9, 2013, Hamfester's Radio Club VE's administered an Extra Exam to one candidate who passed. Congratulations to the candidate. 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 December 14, 2013.

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@arri.net.



Walk-ins are welcome and again test fee is \$15.00 (cash only -- no credit cards or checks).

73's

AL – N9ZD

*Note: The Hamfester's Constitution and potential revisions were printed in the last issue of the Hamgab. Contact Kurt WB9FMC if you have any questions.*

# A Visit from St. Nicholas

Twas the night before Christmas, and down in the shack  
I was tuning the bands, before hitting the sack,  
The AES catalogue lay by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The kids were settled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of DX ran through their heads.  
And Mamma in her kerchief had long been asleep,  
While I worked some DX that just wouldn't keep.

When out on the lawn there arose such a racket,  
I thought sure the tower had broken a bracket.  
Upstairs like the wind I flew like a flash,  
Looking to see what had caused such a crash.

The moon as it hung in the sky all aglow,  
Made it easy to see the antennas below.  
When what should I see draped over the 20 meter beam,  
But a miniature sleigh and an eight reindeer team.

With a little old driver, his hat all askew,  
Who cursed them all roundly 'till the air turned blue.  
He got them untangled and onward they came,  
And he whistled and shouted and called them by name:

Now Kenwood, now Collins, now Icom, and Astron!  
On Drake, on Heil, on Yaesu, and Ameritron.  
Watch out for the dipole, there by the wall  
Now dash away, dash away, dash away all.

So up to the housetop the coursers, they flew,  
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.  
And then in twinkling I heard on the roof,  
The shingles cracking beneath each tiny hoof.

I drew in my head and cracked it on the sash  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a crash.  
He smelled like reindeer from head to his foot,  
His clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.

A bundle of toys he had  
slung on his back,  
Maybe he just came  
from Radio Shack.  
His eyes hardly focused;  
He'd had far too much sherry!  
He's cheeks were like roses,  
his nose like a cherry.



All in all he seemed to have quite a glow.  
And the beard on his chin was as white as snow.  
A dollar cigar he had stuck in his face,  
He'd soon scattered ashes all over the place.

He had a broad face, and a little round gut,  
That shook when he laughed like he was a nut.  
He was chubby and plump...he was jolly all right.  
I laughed when I saw him the rest of the night.

A blink of his eyes and a twist of his head;  
He would like some tasty wine colored red.  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work  
And filled all the stockings then turned with a jerk.

And laying a finger alongside his snoot,  
He rose up the chimney...oh what a hoot!  
He reeled into his sleigh to the team gave a whistle.  
And away they all flew like an un-guided missile

But I heard him exclaim when I no longer could see  
"Merry Christmas to all and to all Seven Three!"

(John Edgar, VE7DLT, sk; updated by Brian,  
W9HLQ)



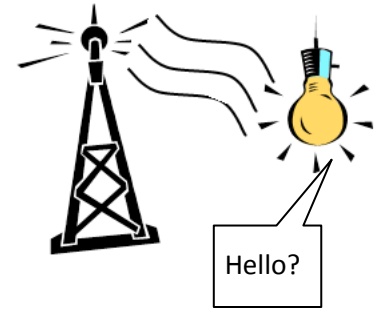
- 1) How do you greet a ham radio operator? **With a short wave.**
- 2) What do pigs listen to? **Ham radio.**
- 3) What do you call a radio with legs? **A walkie-talkie.**
- 4) What radio network do fish listen to? **Sea BS**

### Detecting Radio Waves with Light

Physicists in Denmark have found a way to detect weak radio signals with light. Their detector consists of a thin nanomembrane of silicon oxide coated with aluminum. The membrane is combined with an electrode forming a capacitor. The capacitor is part of an LC circuit which will pick up the radio waves at their resonance frequency resulting in vibration of the nanomembrane. The optical shift of laser beams bouncing off the membrane can be detected effectively turning the radio waves into an optical signal which can be analyzed using optical techniques.

How is this useful? Detecting faint radio waves is hampered by the small amounts of heat generated by traditional detectors which can overwhelm the signals. Hence the liquid nitrogen tanks in the control rooms of radio telescopes. The device is just a prototype now, but it can detect weak radio signals at room temperature. This could be a boon to any device using radio waves such as nuclear magnetic resonance imagers and could someday even be used in your cell phone as a way to detect *weaker* signals with less power.

*Source MIT Reviews October 2013*



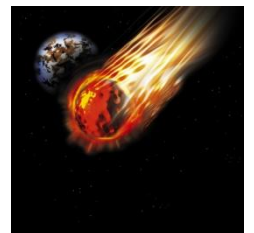
### Backscatter

Can devices without batteries or transmitters talk to each other? It just so happens researchers at the University of Washington have made this happen. They used something called ambient backscatter which is the sum of the TV, radio and cellular signals existing in the atmosphere. The devices are able to use these signals as both a source of power and a way to communicate. The researchers imagine the devices being used as for example a way for your lost car keys to tell your couch where they are so the couch can send the information off to your cell phone. Or imagine a sensor imbedded in a cement wall. The sensor which needs no power could function virtually forever on the ambient signals.

*Source Infoworld.com*

### Comet Hunting

Two comets are visible in the November sky. Comet Ison which generated some buzz in the media and comet Lovejoy. Comet Ison is particularly interesting. It was discovered by two Russian astronomers and it is unusual in that it is coming in straight from the Oort cloud which is a vast swarm of comets at the edge of the solar system. It is its first and perhaps only trip into the solar system. On November 28, it will reach perihelion and pass within 750,000 miles of the sun. No one knows if it will be vaporized by the sun or if some portion of it will remain intact.



Maureen and I wanted to get a look, but it was difficult to find a time. Finally, our schedules and weather cleared so we decided to get up at 5 AM on November 19<sup>th</sup> and see what we could see. What's one more day of sleep deprivation anyway? We knew we'd have to fight the almost full moon and both comets, especially Ison, were close to the sun making them low in the sky. It was a frigid morning when we got outside, but it was clear. We looked for Ison first. It was supposed to be directly under the bright star Spica, but unfortunately we couldn't see it in the binoculars. It may have been obscured by the neighbor's trees and houses. Next we aimed for comet Lovejoy. It seems like comets are never exactly in the spot shown on the star maps, but we found it in the binoculars. It wasn't spectacular, but it was there. We pulled out the telescope, but twilight and the moon were just too bright and we couldn't find it again. Oh well, one out of two ain't bad. However, we did manage to get a beautiful view of Jupiter and its moons. Hopefully, by the time you read this comet Ison will have emerged from the sun intact and Maureen and I will get another chance.

## Helical Antennas

When you look at helical antennas, you could be forgiven that thinking that they are straightforward and uncomplicated. Take the small antenna on your hand held transceiver, for example. It certainly doesn't look like there is a lot involved in it or that it may not be what you assume it to be.

In the case just mentioned, they are mostly physically short antennas encased in a rubber-like protective radome, making use of a helically wound radiator to provide electrical loading to maximise performance like a coil. Very small types known as *stubbies* often don't even contain a helix inside. On the other hand, helicals can also be broadband antennas used to provide circular polarisation over an appreciable bandwidth.

Circular polarisation is frequently used for satellite and space communications to harness the random rotations of elliptical polarisation. In space, waves are not subject to the influence of the earth and the concepts of vertical and horizontal polarisation have no meaning. As a linearly polarised signal passes through space, there is a tendency for it to rotate resulting in unpredictable polarisation, caused by *Faraday Rotation* which gives rise to significant fading if linearly polarised antennas are used.

In satellite communication circular polarisation is used by GPS navigation and weather monitoring systems like the NOAA TIROs-N satellites and the SAR ELT (search and

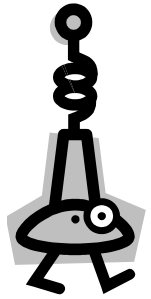
rescue emergency locator transmitter) service which is primarily for aircraft.

Circularly polarised antennas are also useful in polarisation diversity systems to overcome long term fading due to barometric pressure, rain, etc., especially above 420 MHz where they eliminate the need for both vertical and horizontal antennas with FM, SSB, and CW.

The helical antenna was invented by J D Kraus in 1946. Basically it is a simple broadband VHF or UHF antenna which is circularly polarised. Circular polarisation occurs when the electric field sector rotates as it moved forward. The electric field can be resolved into orthogonal components (at right angles to each other and to the direction of travel) which has a 90 degree phase difference. The sense of rotation can be clockwise or anti- clockwise (also called right handed or left handed circular.)

In most cases helical antennas will need to work against a ground plane, though this is not always the case. The ground plane can be flat or cupped in the form of a cylindrical cavity or in the form of a frustrum cavity. The antenna is fed by coaxial cable, the central conductor being connected to the helix at the feed point and the outer conductor attached to the ground plane.

*Westlakes Amateur Inc. - Magazine September 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.

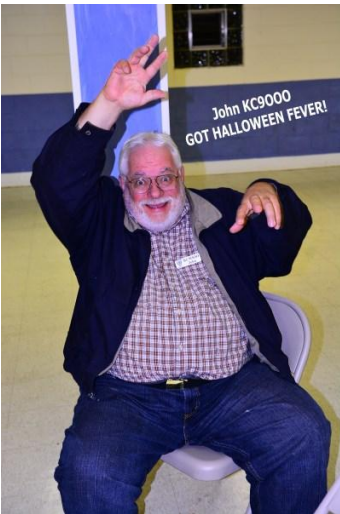
Feel free to contact me by email at

kb9yxh@yahoo.com or call me at (708) 429-4511.

73' Bob Richter KB9YXH Raffle Chairman



Hamgab:December 2013



Merry Christmas!



## 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 28 & June 29 2014 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 146.640. Tom KA9ZXN is 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.*