



Ham Gab

Next meeting: January 3rd January 2014



PO Box 474
Crestwood, IL
60445-0474
www.hamfesters.org

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January Birthdays

James W9ATT
Wanda W9CT
Michael KC9OPV
Rudolph KA9EXP
Richard KA9HMV
Douglas W9IIX
John WØJLC
Thomas WY9M
Eugene WB9NAR
Bruno K9QKB
Jordan W9QKE
Lionel K2VSP
Michael WA9ZPM
William W9MJZ
Peggy K9QLM
Ruth Maloney

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

For our January meeting, our very own Dave N9KPD will present a program on Computer safety. The hackers are out there, as anyone who has shopped at Target this year knows very well. Learn how to protect your online identity. It is something everyone needs to know.



Yes the picture is correct. Yours truly Eric KC9OOM and Steve KC9OOL were presented the Hamfesters of the Year award by Bob and Kelly, N9RAT and KB9ZRM. We were very honored to be selected as there are so many deserving Hamfesters who do so much for the club. We truly have a great bunch of members and we are thankful to be a part of such a wonderful group.

The Christmas party was a spectacular success. As usual, the food at Papa Joes was fantastic and Cal Starr gave a great performance making it one of the best Christmas parties ever. Everyone needs to personally thank Don KC9EQQ and Nora KC9MLV for their hard work in arranging the party. The party could not have happened without them. We are all grateful.

Also, thank you to Ed WA9EOL for running the raffle, Mike WA9ZPM for setting up the sound system, Jim KB9CYL for selling the tickets and all of the other Hamfesters who made the night a success. We also wanted to thank Kelly KB9ZRM for the yummy Christmas cookies. Congratulations to our raffle winners Bruno K9QKB, & Jim N9HSH.

WE HAVE SOME GREAT PRIZES AVAILABLE SO SUPPORT YOUR CLUB AND BUY A RAFFLE TICKET AT THE NEXT MEETING.

**COME ON 2014- LET'S SHOW
2013 HOW IT SHOULD HAVE
WENT!**

THE PRESIDENT'S BEAT

DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ
JANUARY 2014

Were you at last month's Hamfesters Christmas Party at Papa Joes in Orland Park? Well if you were, you surely had a good time like so many others present that night. I know two people who left happy. That would be Steve KC9OOL and his son Eric KC9OOM. Especially when they were presented by Bob N9RAT and his wife Kelly KB9ZRM, (who were last year's award winners), with the Hamfester of the Year Award. And might I add a well deserved award when you look at all the work Steve and Eric have done for this club, especially when it comes to the way they have so adeptly taken care of the Hamgab newsletter these past few years. Plus you can always count on their help with setting up our meeting space for regular meetings. They are a great father and son team who really know how to get the job done. Won't you please join me in congratulating these two gentlemen at our January Meeting? Great job guys!

Speaking of the party again, I would like to thank the following individuals for all they did to make the party a great one: Kelly as above for the cookies she made, Steve W9KXT, Nora KC9MLV, Cathy KC9RH and her husband Bob N9KWG, Papa Joe's Mgrs. Mike and his son Mike and their great staff, and then I do indeed need to thank our entertainers for the night in the guise of Cal Starr and friends. What a wonderful show they gave us all! Great music, fun humor and stories met across the board approval by all who attended. I know Nora and I truly enjoyed this great show. And wasn't it nice to have more room to spread out this year, what with having two rooms together this year. Thanks Papa Joes for doing that for us! This party was certainly a great way to kick off the Holiday season in grand style for sure! I have received many compliments that night about such a lovely evening and I look forward already to next year's party! Thanks to all of you who attended from our club and your guests too.

Last month in my column, I kiddingly mentioned how Santa Claus had apparently hijacked my Presidents Column. It was all meant in good fun, but the real hijacking I suffered of sorts a couple of months ago, was no laughing matter. I speak about my computer having gotten hijacked by a virus and/or Trojan that made my life a living nightmare with the scoundrel who got in there wreaking havoc on my Facebook page. Now, the uninformed one would think what's the big deal with getting a virus on Facebook? Well let's just compare the severity of it to if I had set up shop at State and Madison on a card table, with a big sign on it that said: "Hey anyone want to get on my computer and look up anything and do anything on it?" Well you can only imagine what that would do to anything of value on and to my computer! A hacker from Southern California had been found to of gotten on my computer by hacking into my Facebook account and posted horrible comments to my friends that were not of my making thus causing the aforementioned grief.

So what does this have to do with you guys? It got me to thinking about how much Ham operators rely on their computers to do their Ham thing or business or pleasure. What would you do if you got shut down by a bug in your computer? That's where David N9KPD of our club comes in. You know David as the man who gave us his incredible Weather program last spring.



David saw the nasty activity on my Facebook and called me with an offer to help get my computer, (and my life), back on track. Which he did and did well too I might add. After seeing him at work, I asked him if he would give a program to Hamfesters about Computer Safety and how to protect yourself when you are on line. What antivirus programs can do for you, what Viruses can and will do to you, How to keep an eye out for evil websites, the importance of good Password practices. Well David said yes and now you will benefit from his knowledge about computer safety at the **January** meeting. I'm spreading the word about this program and one of the first places I will spread it through will be our Hamfesters Facebook page. Bring friends to this one, Hamfesters! It will be a night of time well spent no doubt. I hope I see you for sure at this meeting. In the mean time, keep changing those passwords!

Back on the beat: I needn't tell you that last year was tough for a lot of folks, especially those in our beloved Ham Radio community. But we must believe that 2014 will prove us to be tougher because of the experiences some of us might have incurred in 2013. So, let's continue to work together to make 2014 a happier year, a safer year and for many of you out there I hope a financially better year. All of which can be done by continuing to look out for one another and be willing to lend a hand to one another whenever needed. Good advice for Ham and non Ham alike, wouldn't one agree? See you next month and by the way.....73!

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.

The November Board meeting was postponed due to weather and there was no meeting due to the Christmas party, so there are no minutes for this month.

Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD

Volunteers Examiners report December 2013

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. On December 14, 2013, Hamfester's Radio Club VE's administered Exams to two individuals. We had one that passed the Technician License and another that passed both the Tech and General Exams. Congratulations to the candidates. The participating VE's that volunteered were Tim AA9BV, Ron N9STU and myself, N9ZD. Thanks to all the VE's this past year 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 January 11, 2014.

Important message for anyone studying for the Technician Class Exam:

The [NCVEC Question Pool Committee](#) has released the new 2014-2018 Technician Class, Element 2, [question pool](#) to the public. This pool will take effect on July 1, 2014, and will remain valid until June 30, 2018. The [current Technician question pool](#), released in 2010, is valid until June 30, 2014.

Special instruction note: 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), and 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 the test fee is \$15.00 (cash only -- no credit cards or checks).

73's

AL – N9ZD

Hamfesters Roster News

We want to welcome a new member:

Carl Roszczybiuk, WA9AVW

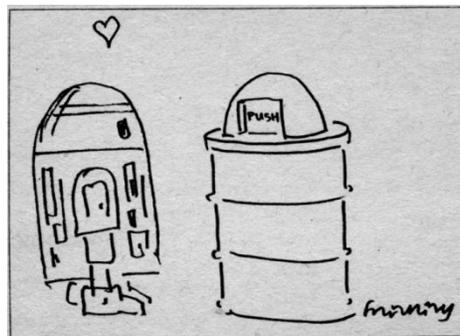
Carl's info is on the Hamfester web site. He is an extra class licensed first in 1969. He is Director of Engineering at Joseph Electronics in Niles. He is active on all bands and all modes as well as PSK31. Be sure to welcome him at the next meeting and find out where he can fit to get involved in our club.

Editor's Rambles



They're out there: Yellow concrete arrows, every 10 miles or so in the desert southwest. But why are they there? Well, imagine flying your biplane during the 1920's in the early days of flight. You might have a compass, and, if you were lucky, some maps, but that's about it. Most of your navigation consisted of flying from landmark to landmark. But when flying at night, you might get lost. Hence, the yellow concrete arrows were constructed to help pilots follow the transcontinental airmail route.

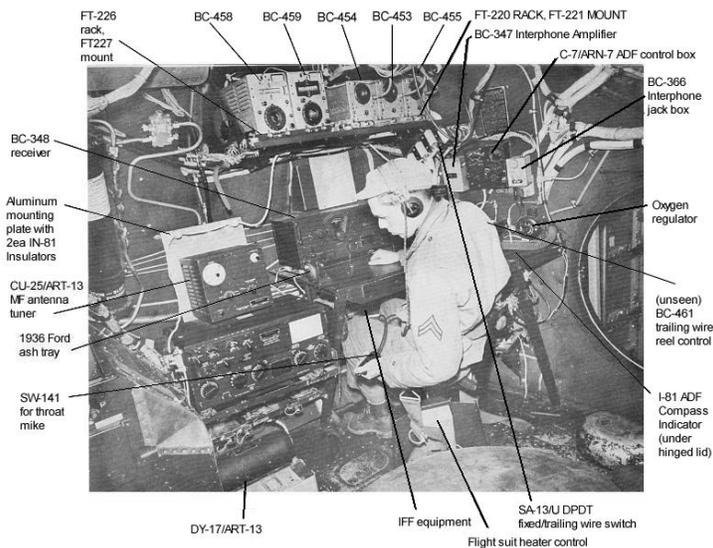
A metal tower was erected at the back of each arrow. A light beacon, powered by a generator, would illuminate the tower at night. It must have been quite a sight. At one time the, arrows stretched across the entire United States. The towers are gone now and the concrete is cracked, but in certain places the arrows are still there. Think of it this way: in the 1920's it could take weeks for a letter sent from New York to reach California. With the new transcontinental airmail route, it could reach California in a day and a half. And to think we get annoyed if it takes more than 5 seconds to load a web page!



R2D2 in Love!

Hamfester Makes Contact with FIFI

No it's not the family dog. FIFI is the only still flying B29 left in the world. It is flown by the Commemorative Air Force. As you may remember, Bob N9JYX showed a video of his ride aboard FIFI at one of our meetings a couple of years ago. It looked like the ride of a lifetime. A group of Hams from the *Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club* have a working Collins radio aboard FIFI. Our very own Steve W9KXT was able to make a contact with FIFI last February on 40 meters during one of its flights from Texas to California. As Steve said, "it was quite a pile up, but I was able to get through". I'm sure it was worth the wait for such a unique contact.



If you get a chance, check out their website: B29radio.com. It has stories of B29 history including the story of Red Erwin, the only B29 crew member to win the Medal of Honor. He was a radio operator and one of his jobs was to drop a phosphorous bomb through a tube underneath the floor. The phosphorous smoke marked the lead plane for the rest of the formation to follow. A defective bomb exploded back into the plane as he was trying to release it. He carried the flaming bomb through the plane and threw it out the window, sacrificing himself for the rest of the crew.

Image courtesy Rockwell Collins ARC

There is also the story of the last bombing run over Japan. It is a fascinating account of a B29 radio operator who describes his experiences from picking up a brand new B29 to what would turn out to be the last bombing run of WWII. He even explains how his mission may have shortened the war by causing a blackout that thwarted an attempted coup against the emperor.

Make sure you don't miss the story of the Collins Radios on the website. The Collins radios were able to eliminate the complicated tuning that had to be done to change frequencies. You can imagine how important this would be in the heat of battle. Collins Radio went from a small company to having its radios deployed in every B29 that flew a mission in the Pacific.



Image courtesy Rockwell Collins ARC

How Many Hams?

Guess how many licensed radio stations there are in the U.S.A.? According to the FCC, as of 30 September 2013, there were 14,865 radio stations in the U.S. That represents a 55 station increase since 30 June 2011. Non-commercial educational FM stations (which include college radio, public radio, community radio, and religious radio) fared the best, picking up 59 more frequencies, while AM stations decreased in number. Here's a breakdown of the types of licensed stations:

AM Stations: 4,763

FM Commercial Stations: 6,530

FM Educational Stations: 3,572

Total Radio Stations: 14,865

Throw in another 738,497 licensed US amateur radio operators and there is a lot of RF floating about.

Republished from Westlake Radio - <http://www.westlakesarc.org.au/>

15 YEAR-OLD INVENTS BODY HEAT FLASHLIGHT

A Canadian school-girl has invented a flashlight powered only by body heat. Ann Makosinski, a high school junior in Victoria, British Columbia, was trying to think of a way of harvesting untapped energy when she was inspired to make the flashlight. She realized that the warmth generated by the human body was an overlooked energy source. Her project objective was to create a flashlight that ran solely off the heat of the hand. That objective was accomplished when she discovered Peltier tiles, which produce electricity when one side of the tile is heated and the other is cooled.

Makosinski realized she could use these tiles to create energy for her flashlight if she left the device hollow. Holding the flashlight on the outside would cause the tiles to heat up on one side while the ambient air would cool down the tile on the inside of the flashlight.

The power created by the tiles had enough wattage to power an LED light, but it did not create enough voltage. To fix this, she created a circuit that would allow for transformers, upping the voltage. It worked! The flashlight does have one issue: it works better in colder temperatures since the inside is better able to cool down comparative to the person's body heat.

Republished from Westlake Radio <http://www.westlakesarc.org.au/>



Hamfesters Monthly Raffle

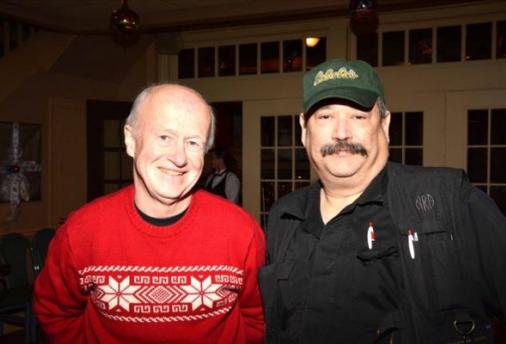
We try to do the best we can for prizes for the monthly Hamfest meetings. We however have a limited budget we can work from. We would encourage all members to contribute an item for the monthly raffle. It might be something that would be useful to others, but is no longer of use to you. It could also 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 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



**To see the rest of the
Hamfester's Christmas Party
photos, please visit
[http://www.hamfesters.org/main/picture-
gallery/christmas-2013/](http://www.hamfesters.org/main/picture-gallery/christmas-2013/)**



Happy New Year!



Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 474

Crestwood, IL 60445-0474

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 28 & June 29 2014 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 146.640. 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 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.