



Ham Gab

Next meeting: August 1st

August 2014

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

Special Interest Articles
Field Day Report - pg. 5
Penultimate Hamfest Update – pg 7

August Birthdays

John W9BNR
Richard KA9BUK
Jack W9NJB
Lenny KB9OUQ
Bill W9ZJ
Matthew KC9JXC
Nora KC9MLV
Colette K9LKT
Bob N9RAT

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
Kerry AA9SB
Cathy KC9NRH

Hamqab Editors

Steve & Eric
KC9OOL & KC9OOM
Scapstone@aol.com



Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club 80th Annual Hamfest Sunday August 3, 2014 at the Will County Fairgrounds

Gates open at 6 AM, commercial exhibit buildings open at 8 AM.
Fun for the whole family! 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



Hamfesters had a great time at our annual July picnic. It included our salute to veterans and first responders. A special thank you goes out to Ron KB9TCX and the other members of the Chicago Ridge VFW post who came out to present the colors. Nice job guys. We also had a visit by the Good Humor man who gave out free ice cream! What a treat.



What's a little rain on Field Day? Despite some wind and rain, the Hamfester's all pitched in and prevailed. Tim KC9POS made our first ever satellite phone contact. How cool is that! CW, phone, digital, and SDR contacts were racked up. The food was excellent and Jim KB9CYL, our fearless leader held it all together. Congratulations Hamfesters on a fantastic job. See Jim's report on page 5 for more details.

**HAMFEST TIME IS HERE
WILL YOU BE THERE?**

THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

**DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ
AUGUST 2014**

The title of my column says it all and I will delve into just how important Hamfest is to this club, but first at this moment it's more important to recognize another Hamfester who has become a silent key sad to say. Our club has certainly endured its share of loss in these past twelve months and the emotional toll has been great on all of us no doubt. But because of our love for one another, our care for each other we continue to hold this club together, making it stronger for today....and for tomorrow.

Bob Truhlar W9LNQ passed away on June 10th, 2014 leaving behind his wife Dorothy N9ALC and their extended family along with many friends both Ham and non Ham alike. His contributions to the club and Ham radio in general were numerous to say the least. When Nora and I were at Bob's wake we were impressed by the many stories, photos and visitors who came to say their last good-byes to Bob. But more importantly, the room was full of laughter, and much of that laughter came from those Hams who came by to share their stories, laughs, tears and fellowship. On Behalf of Hamfesters, I extend our sympathies, and support to Dorothy and her family on their loss of Robert. Rest in Peace, Bob, and thank you for all you have done for our club.

So what singular event of each year is key to supporting and sustaining our club throughout the year? You guessed it! It's Hamfest! Technically, nowadays Hamfest is a two day event. Allow me to explain. On Saturday, August 2nd, at 7pm at the Peotone site where Hamfest takes place, will be our second annual Vendors and Helpers appreciation night. At this event, the club extends an invite to all vendors along with all of you my fellow Hamfesters who come out and volunteer for the many jobs that are necessary to make Hamfest a success. Pizza, desserts, chips, soda and such are served in the main building at the fairgrounds as a way to say thank you for all you do in making Hamfest come alive and provide a positive experience for all who attend.

Kerry Nelson AA9SB and his committee have been working hard on recruiting your help at making this an event where people will not only remember the great deals our guests will find, but more significantly will allow said guests to find out just what a great bunch of people we are as a club. So, when you are helping our guests be it on August 2nd or August 3rd, you are helping our club. You're helping it to thrive. You're helping it to exist as a learning center for present and future hams. Your participation is the key reason we have been around for over 80 plus years. When you give your time at this year's Hamfest, give it with a smile on your face and a firm handshake to all you meet that weekend in August and say warmly, "Welcome to Hamfest, and have a great time!"

Friday, August 1st is our next regular meeting for our members and Kerry will be our annual guest speaker where he will both update you on the status of Hamfest and to seek your help in signing up for ticket sales, customer service, security, parking and such that need your kind of expertise in assisting helping us out with that day. But don't wait till August 1st to offer your help. Give Kerry a call now and see what you can do to make this another successful Hamfest. I thank you and so does your club!

On Friday, July 11th our club celebrated its annual Fourth of July Picnic and Salute to Veterans and First Responders. And celebrate it we did! I first and foremost must thank all of those members who served in the military or Police, Fire, EMA, EMS and the like along with any family members they may



have doing the same thing. My hat's off to you!

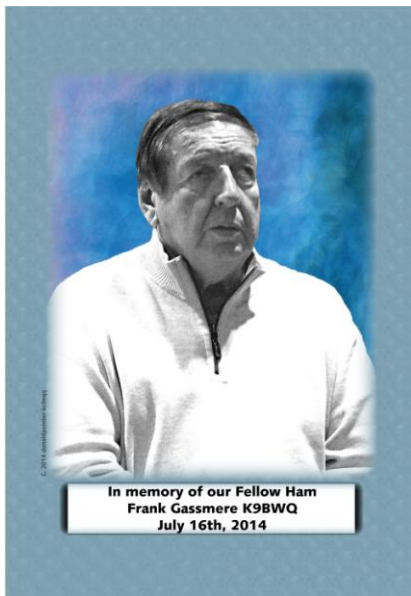
Special thanks too go out to Commander Joe Schneider and his Honor guard, (which includes our very own Ron Kalat KB9TCX), from the Chicago Ridge VFW Post who came out and presented our Nation's color at our picnic. A great job you did for sure and all who attended were indeed honored by your presence.

Thanks must go out to all who brought food from home, Beggars Pizza and White Castles for all to enjoy too. But there was a contribution made that night that nearly defies explanation but indeed exemplifies what pure goodness is all about. Some time back in June I ran into Mr. Dick Royce, also known as "The Good Humor Man". He owns the real thing- a Good Humor Ice Cream Truck. He wears the Good Humor Man concept on his sleeve unabashedly, I might add. That's what inspired me to have him come out to our July 11th event. I was drawn to him by his genuine likability and love of his fellow man. So he shows up at our picnic, gives out all this ice cream to everyone, (yes, we *were* going to pay him for this), and then after I bring him up front for a little recognition and thank you, he blows us all away by saying he is not charging us a dime for what he just did for us. Jaws dropped, applause erupted and a shared sense of shock by all became quite apparent. We suddenly became very aware of the blessing just bestowed upon us. Nice people have nice things happen to them, and Dick told me later that he was very impressed by just how warm and friendly a group we have.

So what did he want from us instead of payment? Simply to pay it forward by doing something nice for someone that we see are in need in our daily world around us. Jumpstart a stranger's car, buy a bag for food who needs it, or just say Hi to someone who can use a smile- your smile. That's it. Plain and simple. And he could not of told that to a more giving bunch than Hamfesters. Perfect fit, Perfect message, Given by a perfect gentleman. **Thanks Mr. Royce, in more ways than one.**

And thanks again to all the members of a club who continue to give selflessly to one another. As your President, I am so honored to call such folks as you my friends. Till next month 73 one and all and we will see you all at **HAMFEST 2014!**

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.



Frank Gassmere

Longtime Hamfester Frank Gassmere K9BWQ passed away of a sudden illness on July 16th. Frank and his wife Dolores were regulars at the Hamfester's meetings. Our sympathies go out to Frank's Family.

Board Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters amateur radio club board meeting June 23, 2014

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Nora KC9MLV, Cathy KC9NRH, Kerry AA9BS, Kurt WB9FMC, Steve W9KXT, Bob N9KWG, Helen Pawlikowski.

President's report: by Don KC9EQQ, thanks Jim KB9CYL, for the June field day program.

Health and welfare: By Jim KB9CYL, George N9VOK, might not be at field day June 28.

By Steve W9KXT, Gregg AB9MZ, might be at field day on Saturday.

Field day: by Jim KB9CYL, field day June 28 and 29th setup is Saturday at 8 AM field day begins at 1 PM. Location Harlem Avenue and 115th Worth, Illinois.

Join us for a great weekend.

Minutes: May board minutes approved by Jim KB9CYL, seconded by Steve W9KXT.

Hamfest: by Kerry AA9SB, hamfest 2014 Sunday, August 3 Peotone, Illinois Will County Fairgrounds. The vendor's picnic will be held Saturday, August 2.

Indoor vendors will be in the North room and bar area. Vendors will be encouraged to register early for 2015 hamfest. Please hand out fliers and sell tickets for hamfest 2014. Buy tickets at July 11 meeting.

New business: We are going to check for an Internet connection here at the Crestwood Community center, and at the hamfest Peotone Fairground to take advantage of the HamNation speakers. Kurt WB9FMC, wants to be hamfest chairman for 2015.

Hamfest 2015: by Kurt WB9FMC, hamfest August 2, 2015 will be listed in the July and August issues of QST magazine. For the hamfest 2015, if vendors buy space in advance they will be listed on Hamfesters.org. In 2015 we will ask Dave N9KPD, to do a weather spotter's course at hamfest. Also, we will ask Elmers to do a workshop at hamfest 2015.

Program: July 11 picnic, the Good Humor man, and his vintage truck.

The club will buy ice cream for everyone. The color guard from Chicago Ridge VFW post will present the colors. The picnic honors veterans, and EMTs, The picnic is indoors, setup at 6 PM.

New business: We will give water to the vendors at hamfest 2014.

Adjournment: at 9 PM



General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters amateur radio club meeting July 11 2014

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KC9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Rich N9UNQ.

There were 29 members and 12 visitors.

Tonight was our annual veterans and EMT picnic. The Chicago Ridge VFW presented the colors, our own Ron KB9TCX, is a member of the VFW (Chicago Ridge).

The picnic: potluck, Beggar's pizza, White Castle sliders (hamburgers).

We had good humor ice cream to. The Good Humor guy gave us our ice cream for free.

Programs: October club meeting the Good Humor guy who uses a vintage truck will tell us the history of the Good Humor franchise.

Meeting: Kurt WB9FMC, phoned the meeting from Washington. Kurt needs 3 volunteers to help with hamfest 2015. Kurt wants to begin work on hamfest 2015 as soon as possible.

Hamfest 2014 by Kerry AA9SB: We need more people to help at the Hamfest on Saturday and Sunday, August 2 and 3rd 2014. There are 20 vendors signed up for the North room and bar area at the hamfest. Please buy/sell hamfest tickets, hand out fliers. Field day: by Jim KB9CYL, thanks everyone who attended field day. If you were of field day operator please give Jim, your numbers he needs them now.

Raffle: Veterans raffle winners; John KC9OOO, Ed WA9EOL, Ron KB9TCX, Ron KB9ZBN and, Wayne W9BBB.

Door prize winners; Steve W9KXT, Bob N9JYX, Kerry AA9SB, Becca Gehle, Scott Gehle.

Adjournment: at 9:10 PM.

The Chip

Two young hams were walking downtown one day on their way to the local ham radio store.

As they walked near the harbor they spied their friend Bob sitting on a bench gazing patiently out



over the water. Bob's rig had broken and he had not been on the air lately. The lads approached Bob and asked what he was doing.

Bob replied that he was "waiting for his chip to come in".



Groaners by Brian, W9HLQ

Stay tuned for more Groaners in upcoming issues.

CQ Field Day de Jim Riley

For various reasons Field Day 2014 was down a bit from last year but we made it up with more bonus points than ever before. Despite the down year and the bad weather we still had a lot of fun.

This year's activities got started when I met Bob Koran N9JYX at the trailer the Wednesday night before and we brought it to my house to pick up the trailer station's antenna and all the masts.

For the first time in, well...ever, George Young N9VOK was not on site to supervise the rising of the sun. Despite that, the sun rose somewhere above the threatening clouds that continued to threaten all day. More on that later.

The usual suspects were there early and setup was underway. Kurt Pawlikowski WB9FMC got a head start on the 20-meter CW station along with Ron Carlson KB9ZBN. He was done almost before the rest of us did anything but stare and the bare ground.

Speaking of rest, I got plenty as I slept until almost 0800 and got on site much later than I had wanted. Fortunately for me, the trailer showed up after I did and then we seriously got to work. First up was putting up the GOTA tent so Brian Davis W9HLQ and his happy crew could set up their station. Next, the masts for the trailer's folded dipole were erected under the direction of Ray Paschke NW9S and Wayne Strickland W9BBB. In due course, Al Bukowski N9ZD and his son Dave N9KPD put up the 20 meter digital station, Linas Matonis KC9PCP and Tim Szymanski KC9POS put together the VHF/UHF setup, Kerry Nelson AA9SB assembled the 40 meter CW station, and Bill "Pete" Peterson K9OWQ worked on six meters.



Lunch was provided by Cathy KC9NRH and Bob N9KWG Fleischmann along with Helen Pawlikowski's meatballs.

Then it was time to operate. Here's how we got all those bonus points.

Kerry had submitted a press release which is good for the publicity bonus whether or not it gets published. Al scored us the Field Day message bonus the night before.

One of Worth's finest came to unlock the facilities in the pavilion. That's "worth" 100 points for a visit by a representative of a served agency.

We were set up in a public place, Altman Park, and we had a public information table. There's 200 more points for a total of 500 before we'd made one contact.

Four hundred points for operating four stations under emergency power were provided by Al's generator which powered his station, Kerry's, and Pete's. Jim Liston W9HSH brought his honkin' 10KW power plant on wheels that easily handled the GOTA, trailer, and 20 meter stations and could have powered the others plus several of the nearby residences on 115th St.

Shortly after lunch we were paid a visit by Illinois State Senator Bill Cunningham who scored us 100 points for a visit by an elected official. We also claimed 100 points for educational activity because we really schooled him in Amateur Radio. In addition, Bill made our first two GOTA contacts.

While Bill was doing that, Tim and his crew got us our alternate power bonus with five solar power contacts.



As FD continued we garnered our 100 youth participation points, one operator made 20 GOTA contacts good for 20 points, and we submitted our scores electronically. That's good for fifty more points.

The biggest news of all? Tim finally made a satellite contact! That's right, after years of trying, we finally got the satellite bonus thanks to Tim's efforts. Eric KC9OOM also made a satellite contact via the International Space Station. Awesome work, guys.

Hamgab, August 2014

That's a total of 1470 bonus points.

Those threatening skies I mentioned earlier? They stopped threatening and started delivering early in the evening even as rainbows appeared in the eastern sky. Somewhere between four and five a.m. they delivered again with a windy storm that brought down half the GOTA tent. Fortunately, Gene Phillips W9PNG had secured the station under tarps covered by chairs. After the storm he and I had the tent back up and the equipment operating in about an hour.

That equipment included Brian's usual Yaesu rig but this year he added a SDR setup and a really cool studio mic. The SDR was a big hit and almost no one used the Yaesu.

Ed Broniarczyk WA9EOL provided his usual Sunday morning breakfast to the overnight crew and then it was time to make some final contacts.

We started breaking down about 11 a.m. and were out of there before 2 p.m.

Thanks to Ron Kalat KB9TCX for policing the area and making sure it was better than we found it.

Altogether, we worked all fifty states, 81 of 83 ARRL sections, two U.S. territories, seven foreign countries, and four continents (North and South America, Oceania and Europe). Our farthest contact was New Zealand.

This year's top operator award goes to Kurt WB9FMC for making 369 CW contacts. Our top phone op was Eric KC9OOM with 125, and Al N9ZD led the digital ops with 86.

Here's the statistical breakdown as shown in the logs:

Band	CW	Phone	Digital	Total
80		51		51
40			49	49
20	455		65	520
15		167		167
6		1		1
2		7		7
70		4		4
Satellite		2		2
GOTA		123		123
Totals	455	355	114	924

Our total QSO points come to 1492 x 2 for the power multiplier for a claimed score of 2984.

Add in the bonus points and our final score is 4454.

We've done better in years past but it was a great Field Day nonetheless. Thanks to everyone for all your efforts. I'm looking forward to 2015.

Cast of Characters 2014

HHIC: Jim Riley KB9CYL

Sunrise Overseer (remotely): George Young N9VOK

Quartermaster: Jim Liston N9HSH

Trailer Hauling: Bob Koran N9JYX

Lunch and supper: Bob N9KWG and Cathy KC9NRH Fleischmann

Breakfast: Ed Broniarczyk WA9EOL



Hamgab, August 2014

Setup: Wayne Strickland W9BBB, Ray Paschke NW9S, Eric Hennenfent KC9OOM,
Steve Hennenfent KC9OOL, Mike Kiley WA9ZPM, Rich Schneider KA9HMV,
Ed Egan WB9STB

Field Day message: Al Bukowski, N9ZD

Sign-in sheets and Field Day pins: Patti Gulick KC9LYE

20-meter CW station: Kurt Pawlikowski WB9FMC, Ron Carlson KB9ZBN

20-meter Digital station: Al Bukowski N9ZD, Dave Bukowski N9KPD

40-meter CW station: Kerry Nelson AA9SB, Don Sommerfeld K9KNZ

Trailer station: Bob Koran N9JYX

GOTA station: Brian Davis W9HLQ, Steve Peters W9KXT, Bob Richter KB9YXH,
Nora Pointer KC9MLV

GOTA Savior: Gene Phillips W9PNG

Free VHF/UHF station: Linas Matonis KC9PCP, Tim Szymanski KC9POS

Six Meter Station: Pete Peterson K9OWQ

Satellite contact/EME: Tim Szymanski KC9POS

Solar Panels: Linas Matonis KC9PCP

Photographers: Don Pointer KC9EQQ, Cindy Shlaustas N9CAS

Policing the area: Ron Kalat KB9TCX

Supporting members: Wayne Slugocki AC9EF, Jim Wognum KC9WEZ



Hamfest Update July 2014 de Kerry AA9SB Hamfest Committee

The good news for HRC Hamfest 2014 doesn't end! The Table Reservation Forms are continuing to fly out to the vendors with more and more of them responding. In addition to John Rohde of RF Adapter Guy (confirmed for 6 tables) and Steve Zahos of Amateur Accessories, who emailed us from Greece and wants 8 tables, we've also heard from Electronic Rainbow (pledged, 4 tables), as reported, and D&L Antenna Supply. And, we just heard from Mike, WA9FTS, from the Chicago FM Club, confirmed for 4 tables, and from George Geotsalitis from NWS Skywarn, confirmed. (And all our confirmed vendors are posted on our website as in past years.) We're also following up on Johnnie Duffie (Duffie CB) and Mike Lowden (Tri-Town) who were enthusiastic about returning this year (center entranceway). We have a pledged vendor for the south room, and are following up on TiggiePooh Electronics (Donald Wondolkowski), Debco Electronics, Gold Medal Ideas, and Hinsey Electronics for the south room. Our goal is no less than a full house. Remember, it's almost a tradition for vendors to wait until the last minute. And we still have another 2 ½ weeks to go!



Going to any hamfests in Illinois or our neighboring states? Be sure you drop our flyers at their club tables. And pass them out there. This year, we're going to be having volunteers who will attend the various hamfests including KARS. And buy some tickets for yourself -- either from Dave, N9KPD, our Ticket Sales Coordinator, or from one of our ticket sellers -- and get some to sell, locally and at the hamfests. Let's get the word out: the momentum has started for this year's hamfest and our goal is to make our 2014 HRC Hamfest a huge success. Now let's keep it rolling!

Hamfester's VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

Hamfester's Radio Club VE's assembled on July 12, 2014 to offer Amateur Radio Exams and all three attending candidates earned their Technician ticket. Congratulations to the candidates. The participating VE's team members were Ron WB9JYZ, Tim AA9BV, Bob N9JYX, and myself, N9ZD. 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 City Hall entrance and look for the Amateur Radio 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 sessions will be held at the Will County Fairgrounds - The Hamfester's Hamfest Sunday August 3, 2014 starting 8:00AM.

Then again the following Saturday at Oak Forest City Hall on August 9, 2014 at 9:00AM.

Please note: We are now using the new [NCVEC](#) Question Pool 2014-2018 Technician Class, Element 2 Exams that started July 1, 2014. *(Please review the new question pool)*

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), 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 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 3, 2014-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 Webmaster Granville, W9PNG & Brian, W9HLQ

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.