

Next meeting: October 3rd

October 2014

PO Box 474 Crestwood, IL 60445-0474

www.hamfesters.org

Special Interest Articles

WLW pg. 3 Podcast pg.4 More Raspberry Pie pg. 5 COD Run pg. 7 Club Trip? pg. 8

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 KA9ZXN
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
Kerry AA9SB
Cathy KC9NRH
Hamgab Editors
Steve & Eric
KC9OOL & KC9OOM

Scapstone@aol.com

We heard a good time was had by all on the SSBadger trip. We can't wait to see some pictures.





Who would have thought a Raspberry Pi could do so much. It can control your radio, your webcam, your multimedia and much more: all for \$30. Thanks go out to Mark KA9OOI, Brian W9HLQ, Gene W9PNG, and Steve W9KXT for their excellent presentation at the last meeting.



Don't Miss Our Upcoming Meetings



Al N9ZD will present at the October meeting a program about the WLW commercial radio station. It was the first 50 kilowatt AM station. See Al's preview on page 3. Steve Cooper will entertain us in November with early television fun. Our annual Christmas party will be at Papa Joes in December with special entertainment by Bill the Band. See our upcoming issues for more information.



DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR SPLIT THE POT TICKETS AT THE NEXT MEETING!

GOOD FOLKS ARE WHAT THIS CLUB IS ABOUT!

THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ
OCTOBER 2014

A number of years ago, an insurance company used as its ad slogan, "Home of the Good Hands People". Do you remember that? The slogans purpose, as least in my interpretation, meant that you had no worries dealing with their company as they had good and caring people working there taking care of your needs first when it came time to deal with your insurance concerns. When that ad was popular, so too was popular in our society to help each other out, no questions asked, to give without expecting anything back in return and to be there whenever one was needed. Those virtues are still in existence today, but maybe not quite like they used to. There is a place where good friends, good help and good heart still exist, just the same way and in the same place it did over 80 years ago - Hamfester's Amateur Radio club.

At the last meeting, someone came up to me and said they really enjoyed the way I ran the club and how much fun Riley, Ed and the poor insufferable Patty have at the front running the meeting and getting things done, all the while paying serious attention to managing the clubs affairs. I was honored at this person's compliments and thanked him, but I reminded him that our club is a team. A team where we all come together with a common purpose. And that is to make Hamfesters continue to be the friendliest Ham Radio club around. All done at where I like to call the home of the "Good hearts" people. A home called Hamfesters.

So back to news about Hamfesters. I understand from those who went to The Badger Cruise that it was an event enjoyed by all. At the October meeting I look forward to a fun report from those who attended the event for certain. At our September meeting, a great program was put together by Mark KA9OOI, Brian W9HLQ, Steve W9KXT, and Gene W9PNG on the topic of The New Raspberry Pi computer, complete with an excellent demo table and PowerPoint topped off with a great lecture on the topic by these gents also! Wonderful job fellas! Everyone there seemed to really enjoy it and by the way thanks!

Our October meeting will have a change to it. Originally scheduled was a lecture by the Good Humor Man who stopped by in July at our meeting but he is unable to make it. But worry not, we have a great program in store for you in the way of our very own Al N9ZD who will present a program about the beginnings of AM radio station WLW. Al showed some of it to me recently and I gave it enthusiastic thumbs up and asked him to please present it to the club on October 3rd. I remember listening to that station as a kid at night. This should be a very interesting program, so lets come out and give a Al a big welcome!

Also at the meeting of October 3rd, will be the process of accepting nominations for the November election of Officers and board members. Everyone is encouraged to nominate you or your fellow member for any position as Officer or board member of this outstanding club. And to answer the question that has been asked of me lately- YES! I am wishing to run for President again. There is much to do next year, especially regarding Hamfest 2015 and I truly would like to see it done as President. Thank you for your support by the way for not only myself, but my fellow board members too. I am to understand that Ed, Jim and Patti wish to run again with me. I am very honored at their acceptance to sit at the front with me for a potential new term.

On the get well news front: The wife of Pete K90WQ recently suffered a bad fall, resulting in some serious injuries. On behalf of my fellow club members, we wish her our very best for a speedy recovery. Pete has had some health issues too, and could use your good thoughts and prayers also. On the Hamfest 2015 news beat: We have a new Hamfest team in town! Kurt WB9FMC is now our new Hamfest Chairman for next year's Hamfest. Kerry AA9SB will be serving as Co-Chair with Kurt. They have been pretty busy preparing for next year and need your

help. A lot of new ideas have been coming from you the members,

boots! Call Kurt and Kerry and see how you can help them with our

and those ideas need "boots on the ground" to get it done- your

most important event of the year! Thank you!

HAMI TERS HAM INTERS

Left to right: Mark, Don, Steve, Granville, Brian, Jim and Patti

Back on the beat..... Our November 7th meeting is one not to be missed as we will be in for a very special evening by way of Steve Cooper who is the leader of the well known Steve Cooper Orchestra. Steve will not be with his orchestra that night, but instead he will be presenting his program on early 1960's Television, one of many great programs Steve gives to a wide variety of audiences in the Chicagoland area. Steve has been a guest presenter for our club twice in the past and it's a guarantee that a full house shows up to see his presentations so please arrive early and get ready to board the bus to Memory lane that night! And bring a guest to board that proverbial bus with you! Here is a quick description on his program as he tells it:

"1960 TV Memories is a 90 minute show of rare film & video clips of early 60's Music groups and singers, TV shows, Broadway musicals, Nashville country stars and even some memorable cartoon shows. Also included is The Beatles at Shea Stadium, The Supremes-the Temptations-Tony Bennett in the recording studios, a very young Barbra Streisand, and TV Theme songs everyone remembers like The Patty Duke Show ("Cousins"), My Three Sons, I Dream Of Jeannie and many others complete with "behind the scenes" stories that are both humorous and fascinating.

Also clips from rock shows like Hullaballo and Shindig, Henry Mancini with his BIG band performing The Pink Panther and of course Chubby Checker with The Twist. There's even a rare film clip that no one has seen of Gomer Pyle BEFORE he appeared on The Andy Griffith Show. And rare clips of Bobby Darin, Leslie Gore, and Louis Armstrong and a short segment on the very early (1962) Johnny Carson Tonight Show. Also, little known facts (and video clips) of the original Flintstones cartoon, Rocky & Bullwinkle and the Alvin Show (the Chipmunks)."

Sounds like a great show Steve and we look forward to seeing you there November 7th, 2014!

From the Christmas party update page: Speaking of great entertainers, We scored a great one for our December 5th Christmas party at Papa Joes in Orland Park! We have signed up Bill Ehm, otherwise known as Bill The Band! An entertainment staple for nearly 50 years, Bill will bring his "Christmas best" with a night of great holiday songs, stories and repartee for you the Hamfesters members and guests. And he takes requests too! Tickets go on sale at the October 3rd program for only \$25.00 per person, which includes a wonderful dinner and Bill's entertainment on top of that. Tickets will no longer be available as of November 29th and seating is limited so please act promptly. Tickets will also be available after October 3rd at Rileys Trick shop located at: 8086 W. 111th street in Palos Hills, Illinois during normal business hours.

Lastly, Nora and I hope you have a nice Halloween and we look forward to seeing you all October $3^{\rm rd}$, 2014

God Bless you all and 73 too.

Don Pointer KC9EQQ

President of Hamfesters- The Best darn Ham Radio club around!

WLW at the October Meeting

Ever wonder what a half million watts of Modulated Radio Frequency can do? You'll get answers and learn about commercial Radio Station WLW (700 khz) in its successful quest to be heard over more than half of the US at the next Hamfester's meeting. Many US networks broadcasting from transmitters on different frequencies couldn't equal the coverage that one station from Cincinnati area could do. WLW was called the Nations Station where many celebrities got their start being heard with such unmatched power.

History recalls on March 22, 1922, <u>Crosley Broadcasting Corporation</u> began broadcasting with the new callsign WLW at 50 watts of power. Crosley was a fanatic about the new broadcasting technology, and continually increased his station's capability. The power was increased to 500 watts in September 1922, 1000 watts in May 1924, and in January 1925 WLW was the first broadcasting station at the 5000 watt level. On October 4, 1928, the station increased its power to 50 <u>kilowatts</u>. Again it was the first station at this power level, which still is the maximum power currently allowed for any AM station in the United States.

At 50 kilowatts, WLW was heard easily over a wide area, from New York to Florida. But Crosley still wasn't satisfied. In 1933 he obtained a construction permit from the Federal Radio Commission for a 500 kilowatt superstation, and he spent some \$500,000 (\$9.11 million in 2014) building the transmitter and antenna.



It was the first large amplifier used in the United States for public domestic radio broadcasting and was in operation between 1934 and 1939. It was an experimental amplifier and was driven by the radio station's regular 50 kW transmitter. It operated in class C with high-level plate modulation. The amplifier required a dedicated 33 kV electrical substation and a large water pond complete with fountains for cooling. (3 phase 2,300 AC volts actually entered the building.) It operated with a power input of about 750 kW (plus another 400 kW of audio for the modulator) and its final output was 500 kW.

WLW's antenna is a 831-foot Blaw-Knox diamond-shaped "vertical radiator". It would be a half-wave antenna, end-fed, and the fat middle's purpose was to handle the point of highest RF current. The downward pressure of the tower and its pre-stressed bridge-cable guys was over 200 tons, and one giant insulator took it all. The station's call letters twinkled in neon across the mid-section, which was as wide as a four-story building is high. This transmitter had enough dials and meters for a small Boeing aircraft that covered the front panels. WLW had up to 63 engineers and operators. Seventeen men manned the transmitter site at times.

Come join an evening with fellow Radio Amateurs and view a video touring the Historical Station WLW (Worlds Largest Wireless) and what it is today.

de N9ZD

Board Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters amateur radio club. August 25, 2014 board meeting at 7:37 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Nora KC9MLV, Cathy KC9NRH, Steve W9KXT, Kurt W9FMC, Kerry AA9SB, Bob N9KWG, Al N9ZD, Pete K9OWQ, James KA2DRQ, (by phone).

President's report: by Don KC9EQQ, thanks to everyone will help at the hamfest. Thank you, Kerry AA9SB, for your work as hamfest chairman.

Health and welfare: by Steve W9KXT, Russ Colbert WA9SUI, is in the hospital with heart issues.

And, Steve WA9VGI, he is involved in sky warn, and a trustee in fishfar, is in the hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.

Programs: by Don KC9EQQ, he is trying to get in touch with the good humor ice cream guy, who is supposed to give a program in October. If not then, Al N9ZD, will show us a DVD that has to do with a commercial radio station.

Our November program will be presented by Steve Cooper about 1960s television.

Ham cruise: by Pete K9OWQ, the ham cruise on the SS Badger is September 13 and 14th sailing from Manitowoc, Wisconsin to Ludington, Michigan and back again. There's still time to sign up, contact www.SSBadger.com.

Publicity: by Kerry AA9SB, publicity has been sent out for the September 5 meeting.

Hamfest: by Kerry AA9SB, our August 3, 2014 hamfest was a success! Gate ticket sales were 566. Indoors 12 vendors who bought 40 tables. Thanks to everyone who helped and attended.

Hamfest 2015: Our hamfest 2015 chairmen is Kurt W9FMC, his team members are; Kerry AA9SB, AI N9ZD, and James KA2DRQ.

At hamfest 2015 outdoor tables located under the eves of the building will be \$10 each. By Al N9ZD, at hamfest 2015 programs will be in the South room (back room). There will be programs by:

Val. Al N9ZD, and Dave N9KPD. And there will be a fox hunt at the hamfest.

Hamfest 2015 tickets sold early will be part of a spring drawing at the white elephant sale.

The winner will receive a cash prize.

Adjournment: by Kurt WB9FMC, and 2nd by Ed WA9EOL, at 9:00 PM.

Electronics audio podcast available. A podcast is simply an audio (or video) mp3 file that is published on a regular basis. You can then download and listen at your convenience. I play it on my iPhone when working in the shop and at night with an earphone in bed before I go to sleep. There are a lot to choose from! Mark, KA9OOI passed this on to me. Enjoy. -de Brian, W9HLQ

Here is the home page: http://www.soldersmoke.com

SolderSmoke Podcast #165 Arduinos!

SolderSmoke Podcast #165 is available:

http://soldersmoke.com/soldersmoke165.mp3



General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters amateur radio club meeting, September 5, 2014 began at 7:40 PM.

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

President's report: by Don KC9EQQ, the 2015 hamfest chairman is Kurt WB9FMC. The members of the 2015 hamfest team are; Kerry AA9SB, Al N9ZD, and James KA2DRQ. The hamfest is August 2, 2015. Bill Ehm will perform at our December 5, 2014 Christmas party @ Papa Joe's restaurant in Orland Park. Christmas party tickets are \$25 each and will go on sale at our club meeting on October 3rd. Rich N9UNQ, will not be running for re-election as Sgt @ Arms. We will need someone to fill that position.

Programs: October 3rd a DVD about radio station WLW will be presented by Al N9ZD.

And, we will have club nominations for officers and board members, as necessary.

November 7 a program in 1960s television by Steve Cooper. And, our club elections.

December 5 will be our annual Christmas party at Papa Joe's.

SSBadger: by Pete K9OWQ, the ham cruise is September 13 and 14th from Manitowoc, Wisconsin to Ludington, Michigan and back again. You can still sign up for the trip until September 11th see SSBadger.com. There will be a caravan from Oak Lawn to Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Pete will send out an email with directions. For the trip talk in is 146.43 No pl. Contact Jim KB9CYL to purchase a ham cruise T-shirt they are \$12 each.

Program: tonight's program, raspberry pi presented by Mark KA9OOI, Steve W9KXT, gene W9PNG, and, Brian W9HLQ. A very good program, with a helpful hand out!

Hamgab: by Steve KC9OOL, and Eric KC9OOM, thanks for all of your submissions to Hamgab.

Publicity by Kerry AA9SB, publicity for tonight's program was sent.

Hamfest 2014: by Kerry AA9SB, sent. Thank you emails to the vendors. Kerry will send the 2014 vendors list to Kurt WB9FMC.

Minutes: the August club minutes were approved by John KC9000, and 2nd by Jim N9HSH.

New business: by Ron KB9TCX, the Lions Club in Chicago Ridge will have a free hearing screening and eye screening on Saturday, September 6th, 8 AM to 4 PM.

By Dave N9KPD, laps for chaps 5K run October 18 at 4 PM at the college of DuPage.

Hams with HT's are needed in many capacities, please contact Dave N9KPD.

For information on estate sales for ham gear. See our club website.

VE testing: Saturday, September 6 at 9 AM at Pindoes restaurant.

Hamfesters VE testing on Saturday, September 13 at the Oak forest village Hall 9 AM see Hamfesters.org

Adjournment: at 9:30 PM by Pete K9OWQ, and 2nd by Bob N9KWG.

The winner of split the pot was Steve WB9Z, congratulations!

Door prize winners: Chuck N9DKJ, Bob N9JYX, Steve W9KXT. Congratulations guys!

Using the Raspberry Pi for Echolink node controller

At our last meeting someone asked about using the Pi as a controller for Echolink. At the time Mark, KA9OOI, did not know, but has found a good link on the web that outlines the steps needed to put a node on the air. Thanks to Mark, here is the link:

http://villazeebries.krbonne.net/hamstuff/?p=341

Hamfest 2014 Final Update - October 2014

I have spent eight years chairing our annual Hamfest and while it has been challenging at time, I would never have traded the experience for anything in the world. There are so many of you who have contributed so much of your time and talent to making our hamfests successful and I thank you all.

But I wanted to mention one person who stepped up to the plate this past year and that is Dave Bukowski, N9KPD, our Ticket Sales Coordinator. It's not enough that he gave so much of his intelligence and talent to programs on the digital ins and outs of the internet and on weather spotting, but he also contributed his talents to making our 2014 HRC Hamfest a success. Thanks so much, Dave!



And most of all, I thank every one of <u>you</u> who contributed so much to make the 80^h Annual Hamfest successful. Thanks, one and all! Now I urge everyone to get behind Kurt, WB9FMC, and his chairmanship of next year's 2015 Hamfest!

--Kerry Nelson, 2007-2014 Hamfest Committee chairperson, kw_nelson@earthlink.net

Dues Dues Dues!

Hamfesters Radio club values your participation in the club. We need your dues support to keep the club running. Standard dues are \$20/yr. And \$10/yr for spouse or other family member. Current members will *remain on the mailing list* which announces the availability of HamGab and other important club news. In the early spring of the year, I remove those members who are delinquent from the list. Contact Brian, W9HLQ, if you are not getting these email announcements.

For the new members (and old members who forget!) here is a review of the dues process for Hamfesters. The final date for dues is the 31st of December which pays for the following year's dues. To facilitate the collection of dues I set up a table to make it easy for you to pay your dues. I set up the table for the October and November meetings. If you are going to pay in person I appreciate you pay your dues at either the October or November meeting. Thank you.

If you can't attend either of these meetings, feel free to mail in your dues; payable to "Hamfesters Radio Club". Send to Brian Davis, W9HLQ. When paying in person, we are equipped to accept your Visa or Master card if you don't have cash handy.

You can <u>check your dues status by going to the Hamfesters web site</u> and clicking on the "Members Only" link on the left side of the page. The years that you have paid for are shown as a two digit number for the years you have paid. You will need a password to access this information. If you are a paid member, contact any Hamfester officer to get the passcode.

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE Laps with the Chaps 5k Run/Walk Saturday, October 18, 2014 4PM

On Saturday, October 18th, 2014, the College of DuPage will be hosting a 5k run/walk as a fundraiser for the scholarship programs at the college. This is the fourth year the college will be hosting this event and our third in assisting. The event coordinators were very impressed and appreciative of our efforts in previous they are happy to have us back again this year.

Event starts at 1600 local time. I was hoping to meet up at staging by 1430 hours at the main COD campus parking lot (exact location to be determined, and you will be notified by email/phone call). I will plan on being there around 1400 hours or before. We will deploy and be at our posts by 1515 or before if everyone arrives ahead of time. The route is all on the college grounds between Lambert on the west and Park on the east, and College on the south and Fawell on the north. So all within less than 1 square mile.

Contact for further information is through David Bukowski N9KPD.

Email address: n9kpd@arrl.net phone number: 708.252.3283

Full event info:

http://www.cod.edu/5k/ Thank you for your time. -Dave / N9KPD

Sign up by following the link: http://goo.gl/aRf39I

or by scanning the QR code

Late Night Operations

A pastor for a local Catholic church was an active ham. He wanted to erect a big tower near the church. The Father appeared before the town zoning committee asking for permission to put up an eighty foot tower. The board approved the tower providing it was cranked up only at night. Father agreed to the conditions. He calls it his "midnight mast".



Groaners by Brian, W9HLQ

Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

Hamfesters VE Testing for September 2014

On September 13, 2014, Hamfester's Radio Club VE's team administered Amateur Radio exams at the Oak Forest City Hall. We had one Candidate who earned his General and two candidates who earned a Technician License. VE's who assisted me were Ron WB9JYZ, Tim AA9BV, Gene KB9RMN, Bob N9JYX, Ron N9STU, and a newest VE, Stephen K9SGB in grading the exams. Thank You 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 Police door 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 11, 2014.

It is very important to bring the following items with you to any VE 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). If you are upgrading, bring you're Amateur Radio license and a copy. Also it is essential to bring any issued CSCE and a copy showing proof of recent passed exams 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).

The fun Badger trip is over for 2014, here are some suggestions for a Club trip for 2015:

We have been IN many places, but we've never been in Cahoots.

Certainly we can't go alone. We have to be in Cahoots with someone.

We've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

We have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. Some have made several trips there, thanks to radio problems, lousy propogation, bad weather at field day and some Hamfesters meetings.

We could to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and most of us are not too

We could to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and most of us are not too much on physical activity anymore.

We all have been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and we should not visit there too often.

We've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm. Sometimes we are in Capable; we go there more often as we get older. One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At our age we need all the stimuli we can get!

Some may have been in Continent, and they don't remember what country it was in. It's an age thing. They tell me it is very wet and damp there.

What do you think the Hamfesters club should do?







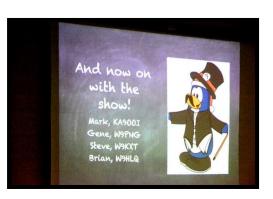






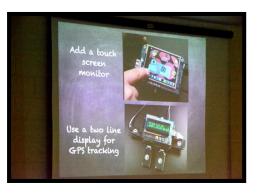










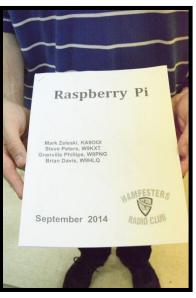






Hamgab, October 2014







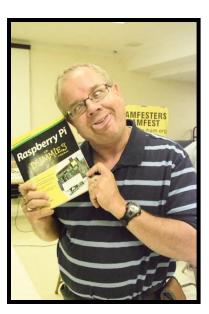


















Hamgab, October 2014



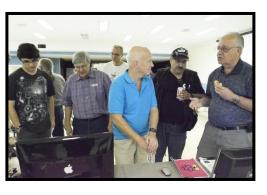




























Hamgab, October 2014









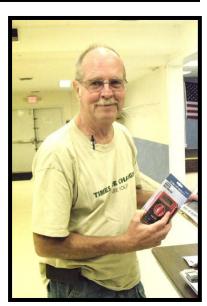




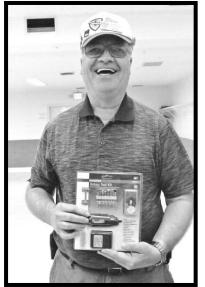


















Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club PO Box 474 Crestwood, IL 60445-0474 www.Hamfesters.org

Hamfesters Radio Club



Club meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at the Crestwood Civic Center, 14025 Kostner Ave. in Crestwood, IL.

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. September meetings may vary if our meeting date conflicts with the Crestwood Flower show.

Board Meetings: 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month at the Crestwood Civic Center VE TESTING: Every 2nd Saturday of the Month at the Oak Forest City Hall, 15440 S. Central Ave. Testing begins at 9:00 AM but we ask that you arrive 10 minutes early. Exam fee is now \$15.00. Al N9ZD VE Team Chairman

Special Activities

Hamfesters Big Peotone Hamfest: Our 79th annual Hamfest coming August 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 Memberswork 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: <u>www.hamfesters.org</u> 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.