



HamGab

Next meeting: December 5th

December 2014

PO Box 474
Crestwood, IL
60445-0474

www.hamfesters.org

Special Interest Articles

January Preview pg.5

Aussie Culcha pg. 5

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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-Jim N9HSH

Trustee-Bruno K9QKB

Board Members

Nora KC9MLV

Steve W9KXT

Kurt WB9FMC

Kerry AA9SB

Cathy KC9NRH

Hamgab Editors

Steve & Eric

KC9OOL & KC9OOM

Scapstone@aol.com



Christmas Party December 5!

Our Hamfesters Christmas Party is on December 5th at Papa Joe's in Orland Park. Doors open at 6:30 PM-Dinner at 7 PM. Bill the Band will be performing. Tickets are \$25. For tickets contact: Don KC9EQQ, and Nora KC9MLV, Pointer 773-426-1936, Brian Davis W9HLQ, 708-532-5833 or Papa Joe's restaurant 708-403-9099. November 29th is the last day for ticket purchase. It will be a fantastic evening. Papa Joe's is located at 14459 S LaGrange Road. It's easier to come in from the back. If you can, arrive early to help with setup. We hope to see you there.

Hamfesters is proud to present *Happy Holidays!* Bill the Band as our special Christmas Party Entertainer Friday December 5th, 2014 at 7pm

Tickets go on sale 10-3-14 for only \$25.00 per person

The party will be at: Papa Joes Restaurant 14459 S. Lagrange road Orland Park, Illinois

* Seating is limited and tickets will be available only until November 29th, 2014



We had a great meeting last month. Bill Peters, Steve and Peggy's son, brought the flag from his unit which had been flown over Afghanistan during combat missions. Thanks Bill for your service and we are grateful to our veterans who keep us safe. We were than treated to moving renditions of the Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America by the speaker for the night: Steve Cooper. Steve proceeded to give an extremely entertaining presentation about the early years of television.



C. 2014 donald pointer photography

**TIME TO REFLECT, TIME TO
GIVE THANKS**

THE PRESIDENTS BEAT
DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ
DECEMBER 2014

Hardrock, Coco and Joe. Do you remember this classic cartoon that was a staple of WGN Television for so many years? Watching that was like Hot chocolate for the eyes- warm, soothing and comforting. The cartoon evoked memories of a perhaps more innocent time in our lives at this time of year. Memories like waiting for Santa Claus or lighting that first candle of one's Menorah during Hanukkah when we were young. Or perhaps Going to Grandmas for a holiday feast or gathering up the family to go to that now long gone restaurant for calories and fellowship.

Ok Don what's your point? My point is that we as a club have had many a Christmases together- like 80 plus Christmases with each other! It is my hope that all of you will join us at our annual Christmas Dinner at Papa Joes Restaurant in Orland Park on December 5th, 2014. These dinners are in and of themselves memory makers. Such as the time yours truly nearly gave our Treasurer Ed a heart attack when I mistakenly said to all women present at a previous Christmas party that we were going to hand out Twenty dollar bills to them. Looking back at that I see the humor that statement evoked. We still talk about it to this day. But uh, Ed would rather not..... So how about it? Won't you join us in making more memories for next year and all the years after that? See you there!

Did you enjoy yourself at last month's meeting? Nora and I did and about 60 other people who stayed well past 10pm enjoying the stories, videos and music of Steve Cooper. And speaking of memories, he sure did bring back plenty with that delightful video presentation on 1960's television. Thank you Steve for your fine program. Not to mention your stirring rendition of The Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America as played on your Trumpet while we all stood and remembered our Veterans for Veterans day.

On top of all that, the presentation of the special US flag by Bill Peters, son of our very own Steve and Peggy Peters. You never saw two parents more proud of their son than that night that this flag belonging to Bill's military unit he is assigned to. Thank you Peters family for rounding out an incredibly heartwarming evening.

Back on the beat..... Soooo, you think you know something about antennas huh? Or perhaps as Sgt. Schultz of Hogans Heroes once said: "I know nutting about antennas!" Well either way you are bound to learn more about beams, verticles, SWRs, coax and more by attending our January 2nd, 2015 presentation by our very own Kurt WB9FMC tentatively titled: Back to Basics- Antenna 101. If I know Kurt, he will make this program both fun and highly interesting for the novice and experienced alike! I will look forward to seeing you at our first program of the year. Lets ring it in with a great turn out of support for one great member of ours-the one and only and new chairman of Hamfest, Kurt!



As this year comes to a close, let us take time to remember all those in our club who went Silent Key this year and think about and pray for their families, such as Mike Serapin W9MCS, Bob Truhlar W9LNQ, and Frank Gassmere K9BWQ just to name a few. A few who by the way contributed so much to this organization in ways we cannot even begin to count or define as they never stopped giving to this club and never stopped loving it too for that matter. And if I have forgotten anyone else who left us this year, I offer my apologies and the same aforementioned platitudes to these individuals as well. As the theme of this month's column revolves around good memories of people and times gone by, let us warmly recall the memories we have of these much loved and much gifted friends we so dearly miss. God bless them all.

To all of you reading this column, Nora and I wish to thank you for the tremendous role you play in making our lives complete with all the love, generousities and kindnesses you have bestowed upon us this year, last year and all the years ahead of us. May Nora and I take those gifts you have given us and return them back to you tenfold with every decision we make that we hope will make this thee go to Ham Radio club for fun, fellowship and knowledge. A club known as Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club!

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year to all of you from Nora and I, your Board of Directors and its officers. Peace be upon your family and friends. See you in 2015, (and our club Christmas Party!).

73 to you all,

Don Pointer KC9EQQ

President of the best darn Ham Radio Club out there!

Questions, comments etc., for Don? Please email him at: hamprezlistens@mail.com or call him between the hours of 10am to 8pm at: 773-426-1936.

Board Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters board meeting October 27, 2014 7:30 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Nora KC9MLV, Cathy KC9NRH, Kurt WB9FMC, Steve W9KXT, Kerry AA9SB, Bob N9KWG.

Health and welfare: Kurt WB9FMC, underwent treatment for a heart blockage, he is fine. George Young N9VOK, is in a nursing home, please call him at 630-920-1405 the switchboard will connect you to George's room. Also, Don KC9EQQ, saw Larry KG9L, and invited him to return to Hamfesters.

Hamfest 2015: Kurt WB9FMC, wants to create a vendor's flier that will reflect the number of vendors who are attending Hamfesters hamfest.

President's report: by Don KC9EQQ, the October program by Al N9ZD, was well received. At the November 7 meeting, Steve W9KXT, will display a flag that was flown in Afghanistan during combat. Bill Peters N9YQS, Steve W9KXT, and Peggy's K9QLM, son might attend the meeting. Steve Cooper will play God bless America on his trumpet. Steve Cooper, will also present the November 7 program 1960's television.

There will be no board meetings in November or December.

The next Hamfesters club meeting will be on January 2, 2015. The next Hamfesters board meeting will be on January 26, 2015. At the January board meeting there will be a photo taken of the members.

Congratulations to Jim KB9CYL, on his future retirement.

Treasurer's report: by Ed WA9EOL, concerning club revenue we've collected dues, Christmas party tickets, and split the pot raffle. Don KC9EQQ, was given \$100 for Christmas party favors.

Programs: Christmas party Friday, December 5th at Papa Joe's restaurant in Orland Park. The celebration begins at 7 PM. Tickets are \$25 each. There will be a performance by Bob Ehm. Raffle two \$100 cash prize.

Publicity: by Kerry AA9SB, publicity was sent out for the November 7 meeting.

Adjournment: at 8:35 PM



CQ Field Day de Jim Riley

We did it again! For the second year in a row, we finished first in Illinois in the 4A category on Field Day. On top of that, we finished first in the Central Division, too. Overall, we placed 41st out of 150 entrants in 4A or just shy of the top 27 percent. Thanks to everyone who participated. We're looking to do even better in 2015.

General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters amateur radio club meeting at 7:35 PM.

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Rich N9UNQ.

There were 43 members, and 3 visitors at this meeting.

Election: Tonight's election for club officers and board members. candidates were unopposed, no paper ballots were needed. Secretary Patti KC9LYE, approved the candidates. The only change Rich N9UNQ, is resigning as Sgt. at arms. Our new Sgt. at arms is Jim N9HSH. Thank you, Rich, Welcome, Jim.

2015 Hamfesters Officers and Board members:

President Don KC9EQQ, Vice Preident Jim KB9CYL, Treasurer Ed WA9EOL, Secretary Patti KC9LYE, Sgt. at Arms, Jim N9HSH, Trustee Bruno K9QKB, Board members; Nora KC9MLV, Cathy KC9NRH, Kurt WB9FMC, Steve W9KXT, Kerry AA9SB,

President's report: by Don KC9EQQ, Thanks, and Welcome to our veterans!

New business: Steve W9KXT, Displaying a flag and photos, the flag flew over Afghanistan during combat. Steve W9KXT, read a prayer. Joining us tonight was Bill Peters N9YQS, Steve W9KXT, and Peggy's K9QLM, son.

Steve Cooper played his trumpet the Star-Spangled Banner and God bless America.

Steve Cooper also presented our program 1960s television.

After the program Steve also played requests on his trumpet.

Old business: Friday, December 5th, at 7 PM, Papa Joe's restaurant.

Orland Park, Illinois tickets \$25 each, Bill Ehm will perform.

Deadline for purchase of tickets is December 1st.

For tickets contact: Don KC9EQQ, and Nora KC9MLV, Pointer 773-426-1936

Brian Davis W9HLQ, 708-532-5833 or Papa Joe's restaurant 708-403-9099

Treasurer's report: by Ed WA9EOL, he received 2 free hamfest tickets.

That he is giving to Kurt WB9FMC, the hamfest is on January 18, 2015.

See Kurt if you can attend and sell Hamfesters 2015 tickets, and hand out fliers.

Awards chairmen: by John AB9JW, Hamfesters certificates for 2014 will be presented in January 2015.

Programs: February 2015 white elephant sale.

March 2015 weather spotter's course by Dave N9KPD.

Split the pot winner was Dave N9KPD.

There was no official adjournment of tonight's meeting. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Hamfesters Roster News de Brian W9HLQ

Please welcome Martin Linke, WD9ABG to our club.

Martin lives in Bridgeview and is an Extra class ham. He is a sales rep.

Martin works the HF bands as well as 6 meters and Echlin.

He was introduced to the club by Tim, KC9POS

Be sure to look for Martin and the next meeting.

73,

-=Brian, W9HLQ=-

January Meeting Preview de Kurt WB9FMC

Antennas: Maybe you've never thought about them much, that little bit of metal hanging on the end of your transmission line... We know we need them, but what's their story? What do they really do? Of all the subjects available to Amateur Radio, antennas are some of the most misunderstood! So, with that, lets take a few moments for...

Everything You Wanted To Know About Antennas * **** But were afraid to ask!***

"Er... Everything? Really?" you say...

Okay, you caught us! Not quite *everything*, but, a good start! January's meeting program will be given by Kurt, WB9FMC: He'll be talking about "basic antennas." We'll try to help you understand some of the basics by asking some questions: What is SWR? Who cares about impedance? What's to gain with a directional array? Grounds: Is it good for more than just coffee? Come join us for some fun and learning! See you there!

Australia Computer Terminology Getting ready for Broadband in the bush!!

A little bit of Aussie "culcha".

LOGON: Adding wood to make the barbie hotter.

LOG OFF: Not adding any more wood to the barbie.

MONITOR: Keeping an eye on the barbie.

DOWNLOAD: Getting the firewood off the ute.

HARD DRIVE: Making the trip back home without any cold tinnies.

KEYBOARD: Where you hang the ute keys.

WINDOWS: What you shut when the weather's cold.

SCREEN: What you shut in the mozzie season..

BYTE: What mozzies do

MEGABYTE: What Townsville mozzies do.

CHIP: A pub snack.



Courtesy of Brian, W9HLQ

Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

Hamfesters VE Testing for November 2014

On November 8, 2014, Hamfester's Radio Club VE's team assembled to administered Amateur Radio exams at the Oak Forest City Hall. However, we had no Candidates this month. VE's who assisted me were Ron WB9JYZ, Tim AA9BV, Bob N9JYX, Ron N9STU. Thank You to all the VE's for your dedicated time.



Amateur Radio Exams INFO:

Hamfester's Radio Club VE's offer License Testing for those who want to get their first ham license, or those who want to upgrade to a higher class license. Examination sessions are available on the second Saturday of each month. We will assist you with completion of all necessary paperwork prior to taking your exam.

Requirements:

A fee of \$15 dollars is charged for the examination. Payment is Cash ONLY. Please bring a government-issued ID; (one ID could be a driver's license). If you would prefer to not use your Social Security Number on your application, we suggest obtaining a Federal Registration Number (FRN) from the FCC website - otherwise you'll need to use your Social Security Number. If you do not remember the SSN, please bring your card.

Upgrade Examinations:

If you are already licensed and are taking an upgrade examination: Please bring your printed *original* license, and a copy of your current license that we can keep. Also, if you have recently taken an examination that has not been processed by the FCC, Please bring your *latest CSCE* and a *Copy of that CSCE* that we can keep.

Retaking the Exam:

If you almost passed the exam on your first try, and would like to try again, you may retake a different version of the exam for an additional \$15 fee.



Morse Code Not Required!

Morse Code is no longer required for any level of amateur radio license. All Morse Code testing requirements for the Amateur Radio Service in the USA were eliminated on February 23, 2007.

Location and Time of Hamfesters VE administered Radio Exams:

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 for directions.

Our next test session will be held on Saturday December 13, 2014. (0900 hrs)

If you have any questions regarding our test session or about upgrading, please contact N9ZD via e-mail at: N9ZD@arrl.net.

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

73's de AL - N9ZD

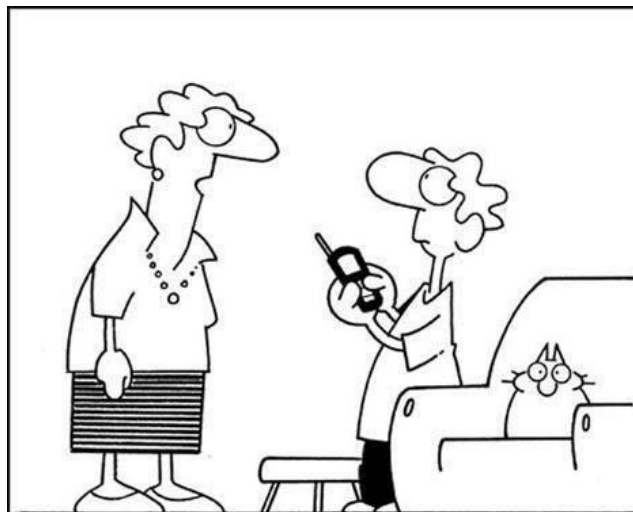


- One Used Yaesu FT-101EE Transceiver\$350.00
- 33' of #14 awg Antenna Wire\$2.64
- Two 1 1/4" Green Ceramic Insulators\$1.00
- 100' of RG-213 Coax Cable\$37.00
- One 8' Copper Clad Ground Rod with Clamp and Strap ...\$15.00

Realizing You Don't Need The Internet To Communicate Around The World

PRICELESS!!

When All Else Fails There Is Amateur Radio



"Explain to me again how you can tap out a 500 word text message in six seconds, but it takes you fourteen hours to pick up a pair of shoes?"

Editor's Rambles

I took my 87 year old father- in- law to our last meeting where Steve Cooper presented his flashback into early TV. We really enjoyed the stories behind the early days of television. On the way home we did some reminiscing about the “Good Old Days”. Although, I must admit I’m not too much into the “Good Old Days.” My parents have told me of some of their “Good Old Days” using outhouses in the wintertime. No thanks, doesn’t sound fun. I would not want to go back to the days before the internet, e-mail and cell phones. In my world if you can’t Google it, it doesn’t exist.

I am definitely not a Luddite. (There, I always wanted to use that word.) As a little refresher, the Luddite’s were those early 19th century Englishmen who rebelled against industrialization. A Luddite has since become known as someone who is uncomfortable with new technology. Nope! That’s not me. For instance, I was blown away by the software defined radio that Brian W9HLQ brought to this year’s Field Day. I don’t have to go out and buy the latest and greatest gadget, and I will even use some devices longer than I should. But afraid of technology? Not me, not a chance.

Well, we just remodeled our family room, and since I’m not a Luddite, I am a little embarrassed to say we still have a tube TV in the family room. I loved seeing those early TV clips Steve Cooper showed that were black and white, kind of grainy and with that tin can sound quality. But in this day and age a tube TV on its last legs just doesn’t cut it. We needed an update.

Judy and I did some measuring to figure out what size TV to get and stopped by a local retail store to take a look. Let’s call our mythical salesman “Brad.” Here’s how the conversation went.

Brad: “What brings you to the store today”

Me: “Were looking for a TV about size X”

Brad: “ Would you like LED, OLED, Plasma, 4K, HD, Curved, 3D, 60 HZ, 120HZ, Smart, or not smart?”

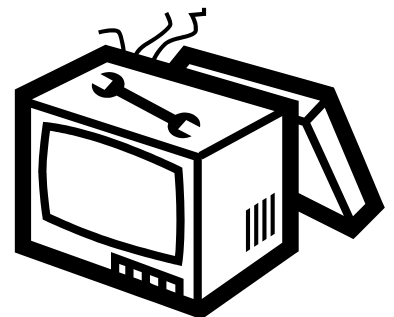
My little brain was saying, ‘I want a TV where I can watch a few programs, maybe a movie, and an occasional Bears Game’ (see I’m suffering along with everyone else!) I remembered the part about smart or not smart and smart sounded better, so I asked.

Me: How does a smart TV work?

Brad: Well it hooks into your WiFi so apps such as Netflix are built in. The TV can even be used for surfing the web or for Skype conversations.

Hey, this sounds cool. Remember, I’m not a Luddite. We thanked Brad and decided we would do a little more research.

I did some web surfing and narrowed down the 693 choices (I’m not kidding, it was 693 choices) to an LED smart TV. I sent the specs to Eric and was looking forward to getting this done. Eric sent back a little article which pointed out that a smart TV could be used to spy on you. Wait a second: a TV can spy on you? I went back to the web for more research and sure enough, if you read the 47 page users guide, the TV company says they can use your smart TV to track your viewing habits and send ads, or even listen to your conversations using the built-in microphone. If your system is hacked, some TV’s can even spy on you in your own house.



Hamgab, December 2014

Unsure of what to do I put the TV on hold. A few days later, our 7 year old printer gave an ink system failure warning. I managed to go to some help sites and get it fixed, but got another system failure error the next day. Clearly the printer is on its last legs and we really need a printer so the kids can get their school work printed. I did a little checking on the web and found 1051 choices.

Here we go again. Do you want laser, ink jet, photo, all in one, WiFi enabled, one sided, two sided and which of the 57 brands would you like to go with? I love having choices when it comes to technology. Remember I am not a Luddite! But this is getting ridiculous.

I went home feeling old, like technology was passing me by. "How is this possible?" I thought. I do ham radio, I have used computers since the days of DOS, I use high tech equipment at work. Paper? Count me out. I'm all digital. This was taking way too much time and had become way too annoying. How can I be completely overwhelmed by a TV and a Printer? Maybe I am not a gadget guy after all.

I sat down at my desk not knowing what to do next. All of a sudden there it was - our ICOM 706. Granted it is not the latest and greatest, but it works well. We can talk to some really great people without it tracking our habits, sending us ads or spying on us. My love of gadgets returns. Sanity is restored. This is one piece of technology that I can handle. The next thing I will do is e-mail this article to Eric and watch the Bears on the dumbest TV that I can find. See? Technology ain't so bad after all.



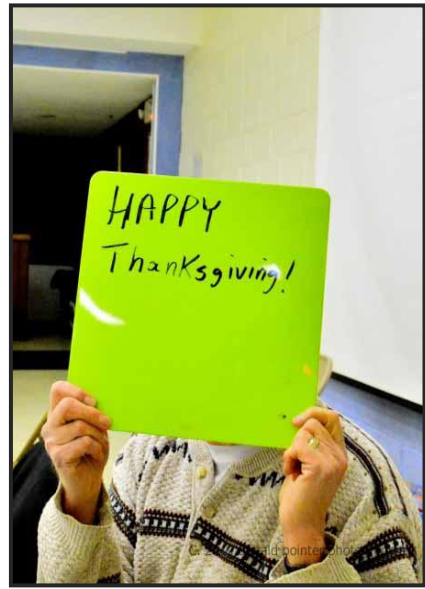
November Meeting Pictures



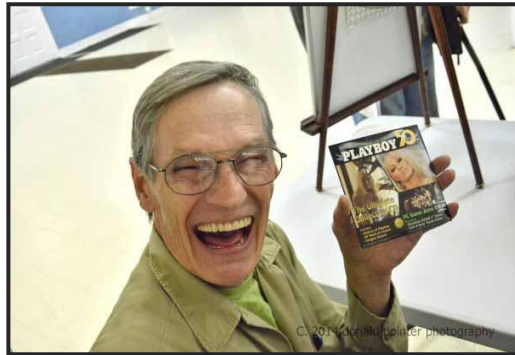
Hamgab, December 2014



Hamgab, December 2014



Hamgab, December 2014





Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 474

Crestwood, IL 60445-0474

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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.