



# HamGab

Next meeting: February 13<sup>th</sup> !

February 2015



PO Box 474  
Crestwood, IL  
60445-0474  
[www.hamfesters.org](http://www.hamfesters.org)

### Special Interest Articles

CQ Field Day Pg. 4  
Antenna Up Pg. 5  
The Beam Pg. 7  
Andrea Doria Pg. 8

### February Birthdays

John KA9BUM  
Ben KC9CXT  
James KA9GUC  
Joseph KA9KBU  
Robert W9TOE  
Robert KC9KUY

### 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



Don't miss next month's meeting when Mark KB9WLX will give us the *heads up* on drones. He'll explain their history, how they work, and what's coming next for unmanned flying vehicles. There will even be a flying demonstration. The future is now. See it at the next Hamfesters meeting. The March meeting will be our White Elephant Sale. Bring your stuff and your wallet.

**Note: Due to a conflict with the village of Crestwood, the next meeting will be on February 13<sup>th</sup>!**



We would like to thank Kurt WB9FMC for his educational and entertaining presentation about antennas last month. He managed to make a complex topic easier to understand. Congratulations to the Hamfesters who managed to make a dipole during the meeting. It was interesting to see how it performed with Kurt's antenna analyzer. Great job Kurt!



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

**"LOOK UP IN THE SKY!" IT'S A BIRD!  
NO IT IS A PLANE!"**

# THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

**DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ**

**FEBRUARY 2015**

THERE SEEMS TO BE A TREND HERE.....

Ham operators seem to spend a lot of time wondering about the sky above us don't we? Sun spots, propagation, weather conditions, cloud covers, drones, antenna heights and...AND DRONES? Yes, I said Drones. Seems Drones are all the Buzz lately. (Ok, bad pun, but I could not resist!) At our next Hamfesters meeting this is to be Friday, February 6th, 2015. Drones and Quad copters will be the topic of that evening.

I am finding out that a lot of Ham operators are getting into this field. A field of which has many possibilities for fun, and industry alike. Such uses of Drones include aerial photography, property security monitoring and even package deliveries. But like every new field in technology, Drone use brings up questions about regulations, restrictions and legal ramifications.

Our guest speaker who will be speaking about the above topics will be Mark Haas KB9WLX. But here is the cool part of his lecture- he will be flying a Quad copter at our meeting in our room! I expect this to be a fun and informative evening for everyone. So join me in welcoming Mark to our club that night. By the way, Mark has roots in Hamfesters by the way of his father, Bob WA9BXI, who was a member of our club many years ago.

Long as we are on the topic of things in the air, I would like to take time to thank Kurt Pawlikowski WB9FMC on his great program on Antennas that he presented to our club last month. The talk and demo he provided was very informative and well done. As a side note, I wish to mention that Kurt is our new Hamfest Chairman for this year and I encourage you to please reach out to him and see how you can help out at our Hamfest 2015 in August.

Our program for March will be our annual White Elephant sale. This will be the only White Elephant sale this year due to a heavy program schedule we have set for the rest of 2015. Nora and I will not be there that night due to a Photography commitment, so my faithful sidekick and Vice President Jim KB9CYL will be covering for me that night.

One more sky reference- But for a very good reason. In April, Our very own Dave N9KPD will be back for the third year in a row with his hugely popular Basic Weather Spotters certification class. An average of 100 people typically show up for his program and I strongly encourage your attendance.



It's no secret that Ham Operators can make all the difference with their well trained eyes and timely reports to the National Weather service when severe weather is imminent.

Please note: You must be present for the entire run time of the class in order to receive your spotter certificate be it that night or shortly thereafter online through Dave.

***Back on the beat: It is with deepest regrets that I call attention to the passing of two individuals with Hamfesters ties. The first is Ray Ludwig N9FPQ. Ray passed away in January at the age of 91. He served as Secretary for our club in 1989. He also served his country in the military during World War II. Ray could also be heard as a frequent contributor to the Argonne net every night. He was gentle person and was loved by many. Ray was 91 years old.***

***James Sansone, the brother of Past Hamfesters Board member John Sansone WB9JTS, passed away this past December. We offer to both the families and friends of Ray and James on behalf of Hamfesters, our prayers and sympathies to them all.***

***We will see everybody at the February meeting and to where it applies, please have a nice Valentines day too.***

***73 to you all.***

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

# General Meeting Minutes de Jim KB9CYL

Friday 2 January 2015

## CALL TO ORDER

President Don Pointer KC9EQQ called the meeting to order at 1935 hours.

All said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Notes taken by Vice President Jim Riley KB9CYL in the absence of the secretary.

Don began by thanking the Hamfester of the Year committee for naming him and Nora Hamfesters of the Year 2014.

## UPGRADES

None. We're all extras.

## HEALTH & WELFARE

Al W9IC was reported as being in the hospital.

## VISITORS

Steve K9SGB, Matt KA9BBQ, Jack KC9ZAX

## PROGRAMS

Brian W9HLQ announced that Mark Haas will talk about drones in February. Don reported that March will be our annual white elephant sale, and Dave Bukowski N9ZKD will do his annual weather spotting training in April.

The program for this evening was antennas presented by Kurt Pawlikowski WB9FMC.

There was a short break and the meeting resumed at 2112

The split the pot drawing was won by Sue Strickland W9ARC. She took home \$40.00.

## BOARD MINUTES

A motion was made by Bob N9JYX to approve the minutes of the September general meeting. It was seconded by Ed WA9EOL and passed unanimously.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

In the absence of Secretary Patti Gulick KC9LYE there was no secretary's report.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Ed WA9EOL gave the treasurer's report.

Ed also gave two tickets to Kurt WB9FMC for the MRAC-MAARS hamfest in Brookfield, Wisconsin, on 14 February.

Motion to approve by Ron KB9TCX, seconded by John KC9OOO. Passed unanimously.

## MEMBERSHIP

Chairman Brian Davis W9HLQ reported that we have two new members: John McEnaney KC9ZAX and Matt Steffen KA9BBQ.

Brian also reported that we have 110 people on our mailing list and went on to talk about how to check your dues status.

Granville Phillips W9PNG talked about how to sign up to get notified when Hamgab is ready.

Ed thanked Brian and Granville for getting the Hamgab on the net because it saves the club \$2600 annually in printing and postage.

## FIELD DAY

Chairman Jim Riley KB9CYL reported that we finished first in Illinois and first in the Central Division in the 4A category and in the upper 25 percent overall.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

## NEW BUSINESS

Don informed everyone that this month's board meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday instead of the usual Monday due to a scheduling conflict with the village.

Bob Koran N9JYX reminded everyone about VE testing: The 220 Guys have theirs the first and third Saturday each month, Hamfesters is the second Saturday, and STARS in on the fourth.

Al Bukowski N9ZD reported that the General question pool will change this summer.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob N9JYX and seconded by Bob N9KWG. The meeting adjourned at 2134.

## CQ Field Day de Jim Riley KB9CYL

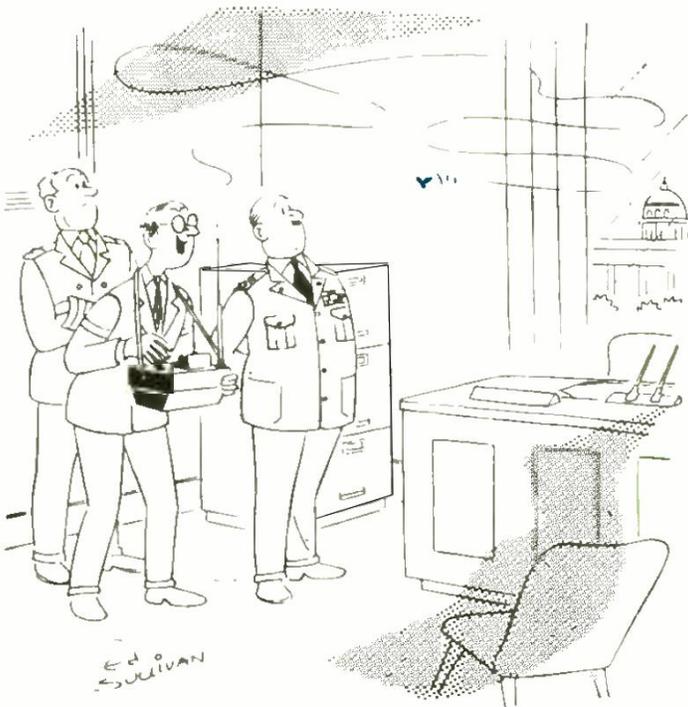
In 2013 we finished first in Illinois in the 4A category. Last year we did that **and** finished first in the Central Division. We finished in the top 25% in our category, too. And we did it with some weather and equipment issues that we hope to avoid this year. Can we do it? With your help we can.

The dates are June 27 and 28 at Altman Park in Worth. That's at 115<sup>th</sup> and Oketo, about a quarter mile west of Harlem. Setup begins at 0800 Saturday morning and we'll be on the air from 1300 (1800Z) Saturday until Sunday at the same time. Talk-in will be on 146.30 MHz simplex.

We'll need all hands to help with setup. After that, everyone is welcome to hang around and try his or her hand at snagging a contact or two. Last year we had a state senator stop by and work the radio for a while. If a politician can make a contact, so can you.

If you're new to Amateur Radio or Field Day, don't worry. We all were in your shoes at one time. Our friendly and helpful Get On The Air (GOTA) staff will be on hand to help you make your first contact and many more.

Want to know more about Field Day, especially Hamfesters Field Day? Be sure to see me at the meeting. I will wax eloquent about the glories of ham radio's biggest operating event.



“. . . And when they hit it with a fly swatter—  
BOOM—it blows them to smithereens!”

## Hamfesters Roster News

### New Members

**John McEnaney**, KC9ZAX, extra class

Lives in Oak Lawn, IL

Retired from CTA

John is interested in helping with Field Day and the Hamfest. He works all bands and modes.... address and contact information is on the Hamfesters web site.

**Matt Steffen**, KA9BBQ, tech class

Lives in Manhattan, IL

Is a sheriffs' deputy

Matt is into photography and music. Address and contact information is on the Hamfesters web site. Matt operates on 2 meters and 10 meter phone.

## One Antenna Up, One Ham Down

This ham is sitting at his desk answering a letter from his insurance company:

I am writing in response to your request for additional information for block No. 3 on the accident reporting form. I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator, and on the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my 80-foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.



Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and materials into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 lbs. of tools. You will note in block No. 11 of the accident reporting form, that I weight only 165 lbs.

Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 44-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent to the top, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my Injuries, when I fell onto the pile of tools and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lie here on the tools, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me — I again lost presence of mind. I let go of the rope.

I don't recall the thoughts that went thru my mind as I gazed at the ever increasing size of the descending barrel. I am sure words did not form quickly enough nor my mental request to my limbs to scramble away from the descending empty tool carrier do any good. They say I awoke in the hospital still yelling CQ DX or something like that.

Respectfully request payment for my medical injuries and replacement of my bucket.

Yours truly,

A Ham

## Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinador

### Hamfesters VE Testing Report for January 2015

On January 10, 2015, Hamfester's Radio Club VE's team assembled to administered Amateur Radio exams at the Oak Forest City Hall. We had two Candidates who passed the Technician exam and one Candidate who upgraded to General. Congratulations to all. VE's who assisted me were Tom Ka9ZNX and Bob N9JYX. 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.

#### \*\*\*Special note --- upcoming changes in the General Exam:

*The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released the 2015-2019 Element 3 (General Class) question pool. The new question pool becomes effective for all Element 3 examinations administered on or after July 1, 2015, and it remains valid until June 30, 2019.*

*The question pool files are available in [PDF](#), Microsoft [Word](#) (.doc), and ASCII [text](#) formats.*

What this means is that the General Exams on July 1, 2015 will be new and anyone wishing to Upgrade AFTER July 1, 2015 should be studying the new question pool prior to the exam.

If you have any questions regarding our test session or about upgrading, please contact N9ZD via e-mail at: [N9ZD@arri.net](mailto:N9ZD@arri.net).

Our next test session will be held on Saturday February 14, 2015. (0900 hrs)

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

73's de AL - N9ZD

## Editor's Rambles

### The Beam

I receive a quarterly newsletter from my former college. It turns out they have several researchers using the Advanced Photon Source synchrotron (the beam) at Argonne and they had an interesting article about the beam and some of the research being done at Argonne.

The beam is an approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile long particle accelerator which is able to circulate electrons to greater than 99% of the speed of light. This results in powerful beams of X-rays which are split off at research stations around the ring. The X-rays can be used to analyze materials by imaging, X-ray diffraction and spectroscopy. These short wavelength high energy X rays can penetrate thick materials and analyze the structures within at the molecular and atomic levels. The beam can literally see inside an engine that's running. How's that for X- ray vision!



Biologic scientists use the beam to map the 3-D structure of proteins. Once, a protein is crystalized, the x-ray diffraction pattern can be used to define the structure. Many of you have heard the story of how X ray diffraction was used to discover the double helix structure of DNA. Knowledge of the structure allows the scientists to figure out where and what kind of substances may act on the protein. In essence, it allows the design of drugs. They are currently studying proteins affecting Alzheimer's disease.

The beam is also being used to make solar cells more efficient. Interestingly, they have found some of the materials used in red automobile paint as stable molecules useful in solar cells. The scientists stack the cells atom by atom. The beam is used to see how the layers are stacking enabling scientists to find the most efficient design.

Everyone who has taken chemistry has heard of catalysts- those little molecules that speed up a chemical reaction. Catalysts are usually large porous molecules with lots of surface area for the reaction with metal atoms laid into the pores. The Argonne scientists can build catalysts a few molecules at a time and use the beam to see the layering. Catalysts are needed in the manufacture of most materials and chemicals used today. The beam allows scientists to learn about and understand how these catalysts work.

Clearly better batteries are needed. As I write this the battery on my cell phone is nearly dead **again**. Lithium ion batteries have been the standard for years, but are there better alternatives? With the beam, scientists can visualized what happens in the battery as it is discharging. Different materials can be tried to find the ones which store the most energy.

These are just a few more examples of the cutting edge research going on at Argonne just a few miles down the road.

*From Northwestern University Winter 2014*

## SOS From the Andrea Doria

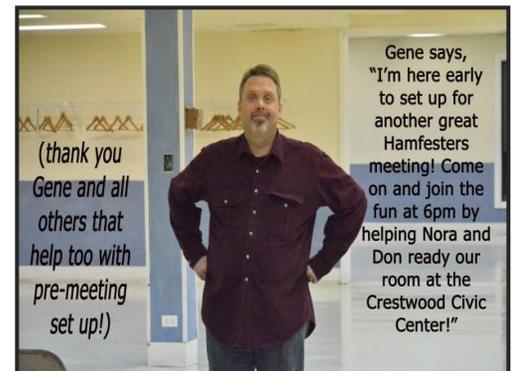
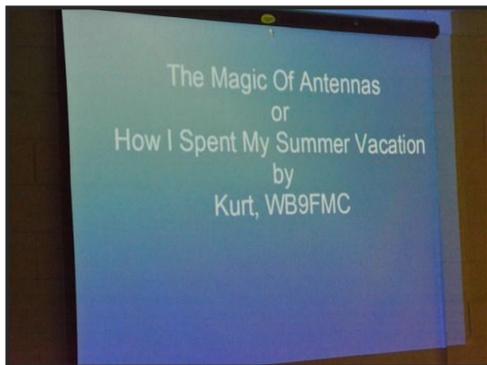
On the last night of a 4,000-mile voyage across the Atlantic, the Andrea Doria luxury liner was broadsided by the 13,000 ton Stockholm in a freak accident that imperiled more than 1,700 passengers and crew. The date was the 25 July 1956. The seemingly impossible collision killed 51 people and spurred a massive evacuation and rescue operation beset by rolling seas, confusion, and fear. The Andrea Doria was listing 25 degrees and in the Radio Room a stillness followed the sending of the SOS. The answers came in rapid succession. The SOS was acknowledged as received first by a radio station in Massachusetts and then from the other station on Long Island, New York. The Coast Guard acknowledged the SOS from its radio lookout post. These responses to the SOS showed that ships not too far away would soon be coming to the Andrea Doria's assistance This was relayed to Captain of the Andrea Doria. The four radiomen on the Andrea Doria knew that on all the ships, radiomen were delivering the Andrea Doria's distress message and position to their captains.

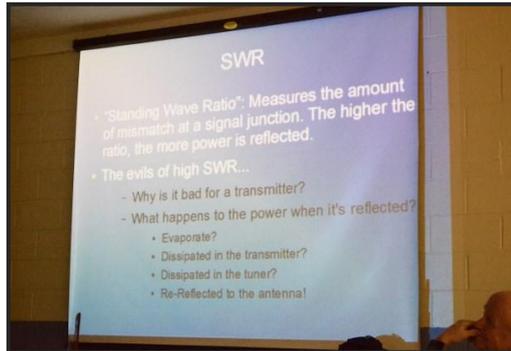
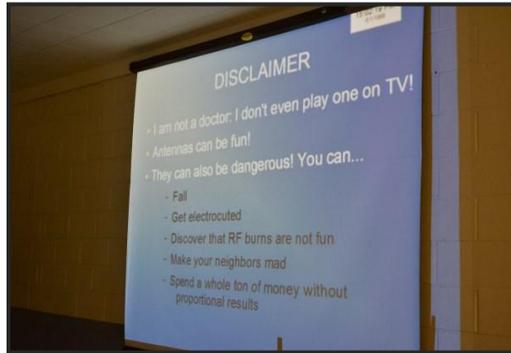
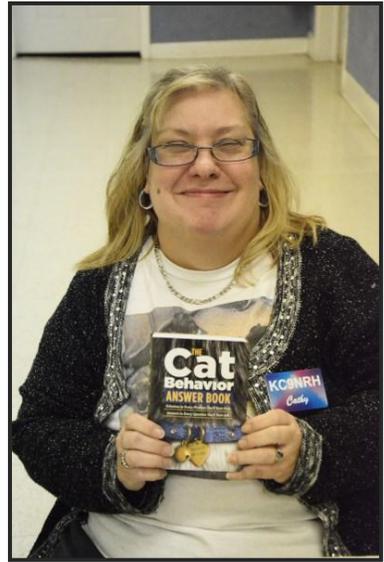
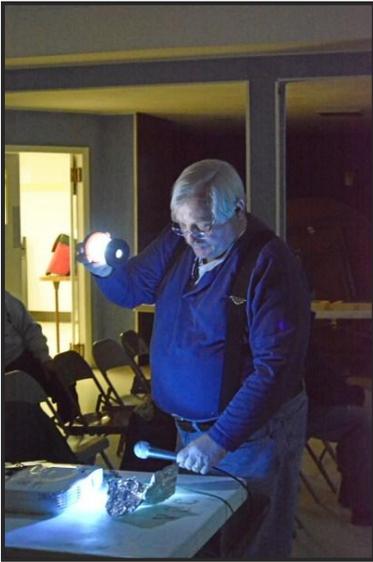
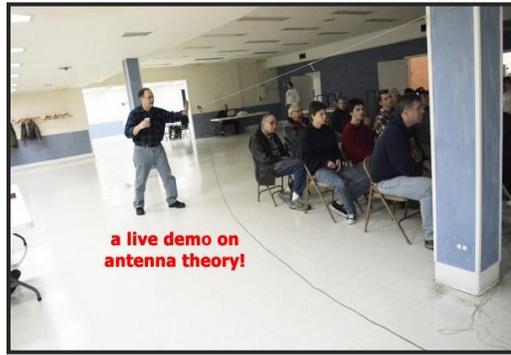
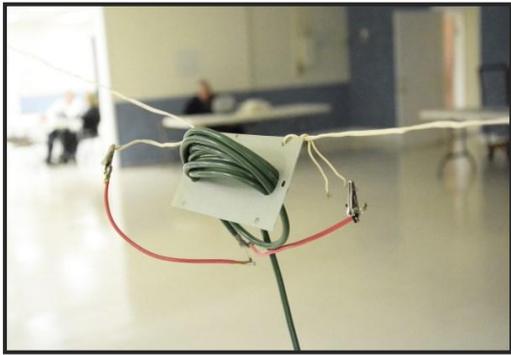


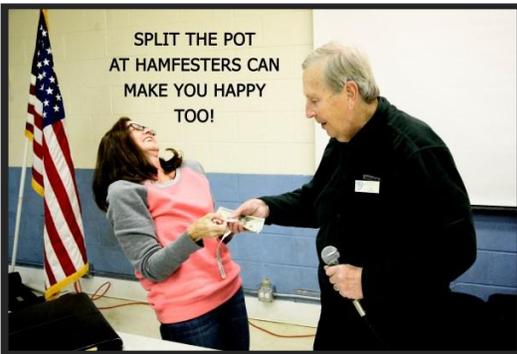
Because of the severe list to starboard, half of the lifeboats were unusable and this shortage of lifeboats might have resulted in significant loss of life similar to those who were aboard the Titanic 44 years earlier. The fact that only 51 passengers out of 1,700 on board died is attributed to the efficiency of the wireless operators on the Andrea Doria sending a distress call in Morse code on the International distress calling frequency of 500 kHz and to the wireless operators on the many rescue ships that promptly responded.

*from Westlakes Amateur Radio Club Newsletter November 2014*

## Pictures from the January Meeting







# Happy Valentine's Day



## Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 474

Crestwood, IL 60445-0474

[www.Hamfesters.org](http://www.Hamfesters.org)

# Hamfesters Radio Club



### Meetings and VE Testing

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

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

Board Meetings: 7:30 PM on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at the Crestwood Civic Center

VE TESTING: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month at the Oak Forest City Hall, 15440 S. Central Ave. Testing begins at 9:00 AM but we ask that you arrive 10 minutes early. Exam fee is now \$15.00. AI N9ZD VE Team Chairman

### Special Activities

Hamfesters Big Peotone Hamfest: Our 79<sup>th</sup> annual Hamfest coming August 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 115<sup>th</sup> and Oketo Avenue, Worth, IL.

Jim KB9CYL Field Day Chairman

WAHM: Worked all Hamfester Members-work 10 Current members for a beautiful award certificate. Matt KC9JXC Awards

### Nets/Contact Info

10 METER NET: Every Sunday Evening at 8:00 PM on 28.410. Bob W9TOE is Net Control

2 METER NET: Every Monday Evening at 9:00 PM on 146.640. Tom KA9ZXN is Net Control

W9AA Mailbox:145.650 24 hours a day.

Bruno K9QKB is Sysop. ILOAK:Node on 145.650

WEB SITE: [www.hamfesters.org](http://www.hamfesters.org) 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.*