

# HamGab

Next meeting: March 6<sup>th</sup>

March 2015

## White Elephant Sale HAMFESTERS RADIO CLUB

The White Elephant sale will be during the next meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>.



Clear out the garage! Get some cash! Buy that gadget you've been waiting for.

Arrive early to get your spot.  
See Don's column below.



Note: **The April meeting will be on April 10<sup>th</sup>.** Once again Dave N9KPD will give a basic weather spotter program in conjunction with the Romeoville National Weather Service Office. Weather spotting certificates will be available. More details will be coming in next month's issue. Last year Dave gave a great presentation. Arrive early since this is one of our most popular meetings.



Drones in the air! Roses for the ladies! We hope you were able to attend last month's meeting as it will surely be remembered in Hamfester's history. It started with roses for the ladies in honor of Valentine's Day with \$20 attached. Too bad it wasn't real. Then came drones in the air. Thanks Mark KB9WLX for teaching us about drones and showing some of your spectacular aerial photos. It was also great to see Mark's 91 year old dad Robert WA9BXI still flying drones. The skies at Hamfesters are filled with the future. Someday drones may even deliver the donuts.

DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR SPLIT THE POT TICKETS AT THE NEXT MEETING!  
LAST MONTH KURT WB9FMC WON \$50.

PO Box 474  
Crestwood, IL  
60445-0474

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

### Special Interest Articles

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### 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

**"THE WHITE ELEPHANT SALE- YOU  
CAN REALLY GET YOUR HEAD INTO  
RADIO THERE!"**

# **THE PRESIDENTS BEAT**

**DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ  
MARCH 2015**

Yes, it's that time of year again when the White Elephants gather up in great herds and park themselves at our once a year White Elephant Sale. Do you have a yen to find that Jump out at you Bargain? Or maybe you are looking forward to that one of a kind camaraderie with your fellow Hamfester member as you look over that must have but your wife says it's a must not doo-dad for your shack? Then come on down on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and share some good times, great laughs and make some good deals at this fun for all event. But just so you know, before you head down there are some important things to remember that will enable all present to have a more enjoyable experience. Here are just a few to keep in mind:

1. If you're selling, please remember the following: Members of our club have first dibs on selling spots. It's only fair. I have had my share of conversations with members about this over the years, and I agree with this principle 100%. Try to arrive by 6pm to set up your table, (no more than three tables per vendor please as we are limited on how many tables we have). Have your merchandise that you wish to sell clearly marked with pricing if possible. We do not provide change or power cords to vendors, so please make sure you have enough of both to accommodate your needs. Hamfesters is not liable for any merchandise you as a vendor cannot account for at night's end. Bring a partner with you to watch your table and answer any questions potential buyers might have, should you need to step away for a moment or two from your table. Please keep in mind that the sale will occur in the back room only as we will conduct our regular meeting in the front room that evening. At night's end, please leave only smiles and nothing else left behind as we need to leave the room clean for any activities the Village of Crestwood might need it for the next morning.
2. If you are buying, pretty much everything I said for selling goes for buyers too. Bring enough change for your purchases and keep items bought where you can see them at any time. We run a safe sale, because everyone looks out for each other, but things happen, so please use due care. I appreciate your understanding regarding these aforementioned items. We have learned a lot and listened a lot to our members and guests over the years who have participated in both our White Elephant Sales and the August Hamfest. These ideas are yours, not just mine, mind you, so let's make this a great night. Thanks to Vice President Jim Riley who will be running things that night, so that Nora and I are able to cover a photo assignment that evening elsewhere. Special thanks ahead of time to Cathy KC9NRH and Bob N9KWG for handling the coffee and donuts duty that evening.



***It's that time of year again!*** On April 10th, 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 shows up for his program and I strongly encourage your attendance and early arrival. 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. As fellow members to Dave, let's turn out in droves to show him our support. He is a highly respected member and I for one, look forward to his usual awesome presentation. Please note: You must be present for the entire run time of the class in order to receive your spotter certificate, which will be made available to all attendees that night or shortly thereafter online through Dave.

***Back on the beat:***

***My hats off to Mark Haas KB9WLX and his dad Mr. Haas WA9BXI for the wonderful presentation they gave our club last month in February. Nearly 70 people braved the cold to see this fun and informative program on Drones. Nowadays, this is such a topical subject and Mark handled it well with his humor, knowledge and great flying skills as he actually flew a drone around the room to the delight and amazement of all who attended. Special thanks indeed to some members we have not seen in awhile. The evening was a HUGE success and the board and I thank you all for your participation! Nora and I look forward to seeing you all again in April at Dave's program. Stay warm, Stay safe and 73 to all.***

***Donald Pointer KC9EQQ***

***President of the best darn Ham Radio club anywhere-  
Hamfesters!***

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.

## Board Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

**W9AA Hamfesters amateur radio club board meeting.**  
**Tuesday, January 27, 2015 meeting began at 7:30 PM.**

**Roll**, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Nora KC9MLV, Cathy KC9NRH, Steve W9KXT, Kurt W9FMC, Kerry AA9SB, Jim N9HSH, Gene W9PNG, and Bob N9KWG.

Our VP Jim KB9CYL, is presiding at this meeting, due to the absence of our president Don KC9EQQ.

At this time there is a question as to when our club meeting will take place, either on February 6 or February 13. Jim will email the board members, and officers tomorrow with the correct date. The date of the February club meeting will be posted on the Hamfesters website.

**Health and welfare**, John Sansone's WB9JTS, mother died this month, and John's brother. died in December. We are very sorry for John and his family's loss.

Brian's W9HLQ's, dad is undergoing knee surgery.

**Minutes** The minutes from October 27, 2014 board meeting were approved by Steve W9KXT, and Ed WA9EOL.

**Treasurer's report** By Ed WA9EOL, the club expenses have been paid.

**Programs** February will be drones by Mark KB9WLX

March, white elephant sale.

April weather spotter course by Dave N9KPD.

**Field day** by Jim KB9CYL, field day weekend is June 27 and 28, 2015.

**Hamfest 2015** by Kurt W9FMC, hamfest programs: demo by owners of HF transceivers, and a Fox hunt.

QST magazine has the date for our August 2, 2015 hamfest.

A letter for vendors is being drafted.

There will be a blood mobile at the hamfest.

We need volunteers to help the program speakers obtain anything they might need.

Please, if you are attending a hamfest, please hand out Hamfester fliers, and sell Hamfesters tickets.

There are two different Hamfester fliers; one for the vendors, the other for the general public.

**Adjournment** at 8:10 PM approved by Steve W9KXT, and Ed WA9EOL.



## Hamfesters Roster News

Mel Marcus, no call yet

Mel lives in Palos Hills and was a ham years ago, KN9ZAV. He will be renewing his ticket real soon. Mel has worked in telecommunications for a long time. He also worked at HAL Corp, Urbana, Illinois the famous maker of RTTY gear years ago.

Board members and everyone, be sure to look for Mel. Get him involved in club activities... personal invite works everytime!

## General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

**W9AA Hamfesters amateur radio club Friday, February 13, 2015 club meeting.**

**Meeting began at 7:30 PM.**

**Roll** Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, and Jim N9HSH.

At tonight's meeting there were 48 members and 12 visitors.

Welcome everyone, thank you for coming out on such a very cold night.

**Upgrades** Matt KA9BBQ, upgraded to general. Congratulations Matt!

**Programs** tonight's programs by Mark KB9WLX, drones.

Thanks for the great program Mark.

March program white elephant sale. If you purchased a Hamfesters hamfest ticket, you are eligible to take part in a drawing, there will be two cash prizes awarded.

April 10 program weather spotting by Dave N9KPD.

**Minutes** The club minutes for January 2, 2015 were approved by Bob N9JYX, and John KC9000.

**Treasurer's report** by Ed WA9EOL, the club paid for website expenses, and Field Day insurance, also down payment for hamfest site.

**New members** by Brian W9HLQ, new member Mel Marcus. Welcome!

**Awards** by John AB9JW, he is waiting for a list from Kerry AA9SB, of volunteers who took part in the 2014 Hamfesters hamfest.

**Field day** by Jim KB9CYL, field day is June 27-28, 2015.

If you have photos from field day 2014 please give them to Jim.

**Veterans picnic** Our annual picnic will be July 10th. At the picnic Kurt WB9FMC, will discuss our August 2<sup>nd</sup> hamfest, because our August club meeting is on August 7<sup>th</sup>

**New business.** Our club president Don pointer KC9EQQ, gave each lady a red rose, with twenty dollar play money bill attached to the stem. He once promised each woman at our Christmas party twenty dollars. The roses were very pretty, thank you very much.

Bob N9JYX, Hamfesters monthly VE testing is tomorrow.

Connie AC9CK, later this month, there will be a technology fair for children.

Do an online search for E week Chicago for more information.

**Old business** Don KC9EQQ, check the Hamfesters.com for club updates.

**Adjournment** at 9:45 PM approved by Bob N9JYX.

**Tonight's split the pot winner was Kurt WB9FMC.**

**Door prize winners were;** Tim KC9POS, Bob KB9YXH, Nora KC9MLV, and Dwayne Seymanski.

### Caption Contest!



Write your own clever caption. Winners will be published in the HamGab and displayed proudly at a Hamfester's meeting.



## CQ Field Day de Jim Riley KB9CYL

As I write this our Field Day site in Worth is covered in snow and the temperature is in the teens, but not to worry. I can guarantee you it will be warmer and there will be a lot less snow on June 27 and 28 when this year's event takes place.

When I visited the ARRL website's Field Day locator today, there were 101 sites logged in for this year, 102 after I added ours. You can check it out here <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>. Just type in W9AA in the "location or call sign" box.



If you have any pictures of last year's event, I need them for my Field Day presentation at the June meeting. It takes upwards of two hundred pictures to make a good show. Without them you'll have to listen to me drone on and on. It's in your best interest to get me some pictures.

If you are new to our club or to Amateur Radio in general and want to join up with the best Field Day team anywhere, see me at the meeting. We're looking for world-class operators, of course, but we're mainly looking for you. Everybody made his or her first Field Day contact somewhere. We want yours to be with us.

Once again, the dates are June 27 and 28 at Altman Park in Worth. That's a quarter mile west of Harlem on 115<sup>th</sup> St. There's a big parking lot there for the boat launch ramp. We're on the right side of that lot. Setup begins at 0800 Saturday morning. Operations start at 1300 (1800Z) and go non-stop (depending on the weather) until 1300 Sunday.

## Look Back at Ham Radio on the Web

Would you like to look back in time and visit some old time ham shacks, see their QSL cards, and read some reviews of some famous hams of the past? Here is a web site that will certainly keep you busy for hours! I found my Dad's, W9FVM, QSL in the online log. Look around for interesting things such as a video of Peter Jennings on the video link from London before he goes on the air. He smokes a cigarette while on the air (off camera, of course). Look for interesting comments about Arthur Fiedler, Boston Pop conductor or David Letterman as SWLs. Thx to Mike W9GYC for link below:

<http://www.oldqslcards.com/>

Enjoy!

Brian W9HLQ

## The Ten Commandments of Ham Radio

- Thou shalt not love thy radios more than thou love thy wife and children; as much maybe, but not more.
- Thou shalt not covet thy ham friend's radio, nor ham shack, nor his packet controller or computer.
- Thou shalt not store any antique radios or other treasures on the kitchen table nor in the living room.
- Thou shalt not read "QST" nor ham parts catalogs on company time, least thy employer make it impossible to continue thy payments on the new tower.
- Thou shalt not despise thy Ham friend's new Kenwood Dual Band mobile, nor continue to deceive thyself in thinking thou hast the most deep and melodious voice on the repeater.
- Thou shalt not allow thy sons and daughters to get married on the Holy Days of Dayton Hamvention, Field Day, Hamfesters Hamfest or Contest Weekends.
- Thou shalt not deceive thy wife into thinking thou art taking her for a romantic drive in the country when, indeed, thou art going to look at another radio.
- Thou shalt not tell thy wife the entire cost of thy ham station, at least not all at the same time, thy treasures picked up at the sidewalk sale are, naturally, not included.
- Thou shalt not promise thy wife a new addition to thy house and then use it for a ham shack. In turn, thou must stop telling thy wife that the new radios on thy ham desk belong to a ham friend and that thou art merely working on them. Telling her that thou won them at a hamfest is, naturally, okay.
- Thou shalt not buy thy wife a new power supply for Christmas, unless of course, thou canst con her into becoming a Ham.



Courtesy of Granville, W9PNG

## Single Sideband Pioneers

Casually reading my February 2015 issue of QST, I arrived at page 76, a reprint of the February 1953 column "On the air with Single Sideband". The first sentence of the second paragraph caught my attention. "Hamfesters Radio Club is proud of its two active s.s.b. stations, W9KNP and W9DKA."

I met John Piper, W9DKA, as a high school teenager and member of the Hamfesters Radio club, in the mid fifties. The big surprise was that John was on the air with ssb back in 1953 long before ssb was fully accepted by the ham radio community. At that time John was using a Central Electronics 10A exciter. The 10A was developed by the Central Electronics Company, and its founder Wes Schum, W9DYV.



Single Side Band  
in Hamfesters History

Wes Schum was a high school student at Lane Tech in 1937, when he was introduced to amateur radio by W9ZDK. After high school Wes worked on various US Navy research and development projects during WWII. When hams returned to the air after WWII, heterodyning carriers made working AM phone under crowded band conditions very difficult, if not impossible. Wes knew that the telephone company was using ssb on long distance circuits, and he thought that it made sense to use ssb to eliminate the heterodyning carriers.

In 1948, Wes built his own ssb transmitter using a home brew crystal lattice filter consisting of crystals that were used in WWII tank transmitters. His first contact was with W9MO. Building crystal lattice filters was not an easy task for the average ham in 1948, so Wes looked for an easier way to generate a ssb signal. At some point, 3999.5 KHz, lower sideband became a meeting place for ssb experimenters.

In late 1950, GE Ham News published an article titled "SSB, Jr." It was a description of a 3 tube 5 watt phasing transmitter. SSB Jr. was developed by another ssb pioneer, Don Norgaard, W2KUJ, who worked for GE developing ssb for military and commercial applications during WWII. Wes then decided to use the phasing method to generate a 9 MHz ssb signal. What was new was that he used a mixer similar to that used in a super heterodyne receiver to convert the 9 MHz ssb signal up or down to the 160 thru 10 meter ham bands. The result was the Central Electronics 10A, a 10 watt ssb transmitter. Advertisements for the 10A first appeared in QST late in 1951 or early 1952.

In 1993, Wes delivered a presentation to the SRO club. In his presentation he relates receiving a call from Art Collins, WØCXX in 1953. Art wanted to purchase a 10A after a ssb signal from W9ARK, using a 10A and a pair of 811As got through better than the KW-1 AM transmitter at WØCXX.

No doubt there were many others involved in the early days developing ssb for amateur radio use. Wes Schum and his company deserve a lot of credit for getting the ssb revolution started. Over the years, Wes made over 100 presentations describing the benefits of ssb, including one for Hamfesters, for which Wes recalls receiving a standing ovation.

Finally, getting back to the Hamfesters Radio Club, W9DKA and W9KNP were clearly early ssb pioneers adopting ssb over AM, early in 1953. A list dated February 1, 1953, compiled by W2SHN, W3ASW, W9DYV, and W3KPP show roughly only 15 active ssb stations in the Chicago area at that time.

Central Electronics produced excellent ssb transmitters, linear amplifiers, and ssb accessories that were quite advanced for their time. However, the company lacked the capital necessary to enable it to quickly respond to customer demand and eventually went bankrupt. The company was acquired by the Zenith Radio Company late in 1958. After a couple of years of red ink, Zenith shut down Central Electronics.

More information can be found by doing a web search on Wes Schum, or check out the first link below. The video of a presentation Wes gave to the Chicago area SRO club in 1993 is long, but very interesting.

<http://ce-multiphase.com/history.html>

<http://ce-multiphase.com/videos.html>

[http://n4trb.com/AmateurRadio/GE\\_HamNews/issues/GE%20Ham%20News%20Vol%2005%20No%206.pdf](http://n4trb.com/AmateurRadio/GE_HamNews/issues/GE%20Ham%20News%20Vol%2005%20No%206.pdf)

Many thanks to Brian Davis, W9HLQ, for his suggestion that this bit of history might be of interest for publication in Hamgab.

73

Bill Vehe, W9ZJ

February 17, 2015

## Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

### Hamfesters VE Testing Report for February 2015

On February 14, 2015, Hamfester's Radio Club VE's team assembled to administer Amateur Radio exams at the Oak Forest City Hall. We had one Candidate who passed the Technician exam and three Technicians who upgraded to General. Congratulations to all. VE's who assisted me were Ron N9STU, Tim AA9BV, and Ron WB9JYZ. Thank You to all VE's for your dedicated time. If any Hamfester Member would like to join the VE team, the requirements are: Be Licensed an Extra Class, take a Open Book Exam from the ARRL, receive credentials from the ARRL, and be prompt the 2nd Saturday of each month at the testing Site. Please see me any meeting night or email me (N9ZD@arrl.net) with any questions.



### 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.

### 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@arrl.net.

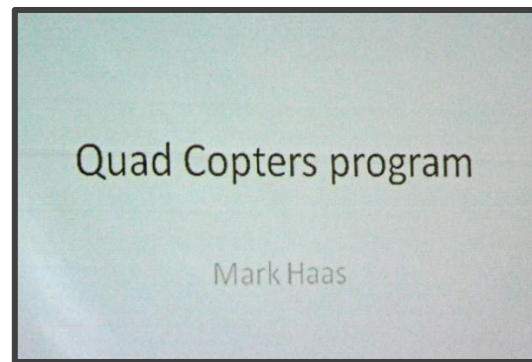
Our next test session will be held on Saturday March 14, 2015. (0900 hrs)

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

73's de AL - N9ZD

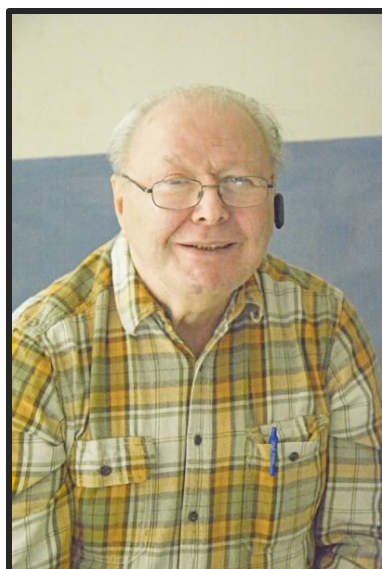
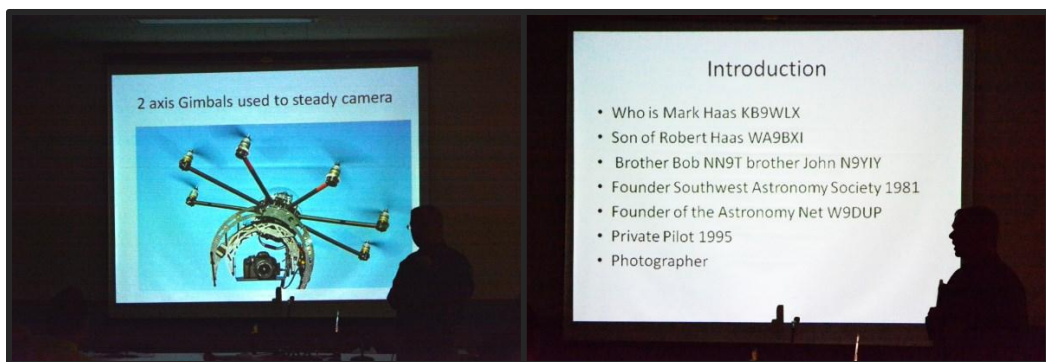


## February Meeting Pictures





## Hamgab March 2015





# Hamgab March 2015





Hamgab March 2015



Happy St. Patrick'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 2, 2015-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 27 & June 28 2015 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.*