

# Ham Gab

Next meeting: May 1<sup>st</sup>

May 2015



PO Box 474  
Crestwood, IL  
60445-0474

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

## Special Interest Articles

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## May Birthdays

Donald KC9EQQ  
Brian W9HLQ  
David N9KPD  
Mathew AA9M  
Gregg AB9MZ  
Steve KC9OOL  
Carl Coffelt (no call sign)  
Cathy KC9NRH

## 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



Pete K9OWQ will be presenting the program in May about the annual SS Badger Cruise in September. The SS Badger is the last coal powered ferry ship to cross Lake Michigan. A great time was had by all and some unique contacts were made last year. Be sure to come to the May meeting to get all the information about this unique ham radio opportunity!



Once again Dave N9KPD gave a great weather spotting class for our April meeting. It seemed especially significant this year due to the recent tornados in the area. A lot of helpful safety information was presented along with his usual pertinent weather information. Hopefully everyone now knows the difference between a shelf cloud and a wall cloud. Members and guests alike came out well informed. Great job Dave!

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

**"WE WILL NEVER FORGET"**

## **THE PRESIDENTS BEAT**

**DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ**

**MAY 2015**

The other night I was searching through my various hard drives looking for an image of a family member when I happened across a folder of images I had taken at a World War II recreation event back in 2008. Nora and I were attending this event to visit fellow Hamfester and Past President of our club George N9VOK who was one the event's re-enactors. As I walked around the event, I was in awe of the attention to detail George and his fellow re-enactors paid to everything from how a uniform was worn to how the weapons, tanks and overhead airplanes were firing off their blank rounds to demonstrate the incredible force of war.

It hits you right between the eyes when you see something like this event to make you realize just what a supreme sacrifice our men and women in uniform, no matter what conflict, no matter what war, they have made to keep our Nation and others for that matter free. I will not within this column debate the pros and cons of War. Rather I wish to say that as this month's Memorial Day soon sets upon us, we need to take a moment to thank these brave soldiers, sailors, pilots, Marines and First Responders and their families for all they have given us. I know many of you in our club are veterans or who have family members who were/are active in the Armed Forces/ Police, Fire, EMS and EMA on behalf of our club we thank you and them for your selfless dedication to a cause known as Freedom. I hope the photo image at the top of this month's column I had created adds incentive for you the reader to stop and give thanks to those who gave us so much.

**BACK ON THE BEAT:** Nearly a hundred people attended last month's Weather Spotters program, well presented by our fellow member Dave Bukowski N9KPD. This was the third year in a row that our club has played host to Dave's presentation. I enjoyed it and many of those who were there expressed to us that it was indeed a great program on a topic that just seems to go naturally with the responsibilities of being an Amateur Radio operator, especially in times of severe weather. We had a number of outside non- Hams who attended and said to me that this might just be a hobby they would like to get into. In any case, our thanks to Dave for an outstanding program, along with my thanks to all who helped with the set up of the room and other details. The clean up at the end of the night by you the members was the greatest by the way!

**NOW BOARDING FOR LAKE MICHIGAN!** Well kind of! The month of May will be a program all about the upcoming September trip aboard the S.S. Badger. This non-Hamfesters sponsored trip will be fully explained by Pete K9OWQ who is a veteran traveler on this, the only remaining coal fired Transport ship. Overnight accommodations are available on the Badger and that's just one of the many cool things that are sure to make this trip a fun experience- not to mention to be able to work the bands in the middle of Lake Michigan on such a magnificent vessel! Thank you Pete in advance for your program so generously given by you to our members.

**More Hot Program news!** Tradition in this club continues with our dedication to providing you all the info you need on how to make Field day a fun and rewarding experience for all who attend. And you will see dedication hard at work in the guise of our very own Jim Riley KB9CYL who will give his fun and informative program on everything you always wanted to know about Field day at our June 3<sup>rd</sup> program.



His program has always been indeed a great tradition for a number of years now in our club, and I hope you join me in attending his well done presentation. Remember- Field day weekend itself takes place June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> this year in Worth, Illinois.

***A change in the Batter line-up: Speaking of Jim Riley, my thanks to him ahead of time as he will be standing in for me at the May meeting, as I will be out of town attending a State Emergency Management Conference. Nora will be there doing her usual great job too at serving the coffee and donuts along with Cathy KC9NRH and Bob N9KWG helping Nora out. Thanks Nora, Cathy and Bob.***

***Worth Repeating!*** Brian W9HLQ and Eugene W9PNG want you to know you can now go to our website, ([www.Hamfesters.org](http://www.Hamfesters.org)) and pay with your credit card for things such as dues, Hamfest Tickets and even our Christmas Party tickets. Yes, it is secure and handled through PayPal. Contact Brian or Eugene for more info. And yes, we still will take good old Cash at the meetings too for all the aforementioned purchase items!

***Next month, in this space, I will be making a BIG PITCH on how you the member of Hamfesters can get involved in volunteering for any one of the many duties that need to be covered, be it at Hamfest, Field Day or simply just helping with our month to month programs.***

***Have a great Mothers day everyone and again- please let's not forget the meaning and importance of Memorial Day. Take care everyone and 73 from Nora and I.***

*Don Pointer KC9EQQ*

***President of the best darn Ham Radio club going- Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club of Crestwood!***

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 March 23, 2015 began at 7:30 PM

**Roll:** Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Patti KC9LYE, Ed W9EOL, Nora KC9MLV, Jim N9HSH, Brian W9HLQ, Cathy KC9NRH & Steve W9KXT.

**Health and welfare:** Jim KB9CYL will have a cataract removed on Wednesday. Bob N9JYX, is in the hospital recovering from an ulcer.

**President's report:** by Don KC9EQQ, thanks to everyone who helped make the March meeting a success.

At the April 10 meeting, Brian W9HLQ, and Gene W9PNG, will explain the options for paying for tickets, and membership renewal on our website Hamfesters.org. Jim KB9CYL will look into finding a source for Hamfesters jackets, and clothing. Please arrive at 5:30 PM on April 10th to help with the setup. There will be three door prizes of weather radios.

**Board minutes:** the February board minutes were approved by Jim KB9CYL.

**Treasurer's report:** by Ed WA9EOL, the following topics were discussed; dues, the pre-sale of hamfest tickets, the Ed Andrew's estate radio sale, and no more \$4.00 monthly bank fee.

**Field day:** by Jim KB9CYL, needs photos from field day 2014. He will look into tent rentals for field day 2015.

**Badger trip:** The badger trip, the date is in question September 12-13, 2015 is the desired dates. Steve W9KXT, will get a confirmation.

**New business:** Don KC9EQQ, might not attend the May first meeting.

Brian W9HLQ, has this idea, a computer (echo link) hookup at a shopping mall to introduce the public to ham radio.

**Adjournment:** 8:30 PM



### DX Award

Our very own Jim Riley KB9CYL is now in the DX Century Club. Members of the DX Century Club have confirmed on air contacts with 100 countries. It is one of the ARRL's premier ham awards. Congratulations Jim!





# General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

**W9AA Hamfesters amateur radio club meeting April 10, 2015 start time 7:35 PM.**

**Roll:** Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Jim N9HSH.  
Congratulations, to Jim KB9CYL, who received the ARRL Century Club certificate.  
45 members attended tonight, and so did 25 visitors. Welcome everyone!

**Health and welfare:** a moment of silence for the victims of yesterday's tornado.  
Thanks to everyone will help during this emergency.

**Program:** Tonight's program is a big basic weather spotter's course by Dave N9KPD.  
Tonight's door prizes will be three weather radios.

**Old business:** Steve W9KXT, and Brian W9HLQ, found a family-owned business in Morris, Illinois who repaired our field day tent.

Brian W9HLQ, and Gene W9PNG, explained that now online at Hamfester.org using your debit card, or credit card, you can purchase tickets, and renew your membership.

Thanks to Jim KB9CYL, Bob N9KWG, and Cathy KC9NRH, for taking charge in the absence of Don KC9EQQ, and Nora KC9MLV.

**Badger trip:** by Pete K9OWQ, the 2015 badger trip will be on September 12, and 13th.  
Pete will present the may program about the Badger.

**Field day 2015:** Jim KB9CYL, if you have field day photos from 2014 please give them to Jim.  
His field day program will be at the June meeting.

**Prizes:** tonight's split the pot winner was Steve W9KXT.

The door prize winners for the three weather radios were Steve KC9OOL, John K9DRS, and Barbara Steffen.

## Club News

### Pay Online

Membership dues & Hamfest tickets can now be purchased on line. Through much hard work, Gene W9PNG and Brian W9HLQ have Paypal and credit card payment systems set up on the web site. Of course, cash and checks are still accepted and feel free to sell as many Hamfest tickets as possible. Also, club members can go to members only section and confirm their dues are paid.



### Field Day Tent Repair



Steve, W9KXT, and Brian W9HLQ took the club tent to Shaw's Tent repair in Morris, IL. The owner of a family business indicated that the tent was serviceable and repairable. He will re-enforce any seams along the edge, strengthen the corners, and repair the center support rings. In addition he will build us a new bag for the tools and throw in a few extra ground stakes. The price came to \$500.00. It will be ready in a few weeks. This one repair is less than the cost of renting a tent. So we should be in good tent shape for many more years.

**Excellent work Steve and Brian!**

## CQ Field Day de Jim Riley KB9CYL

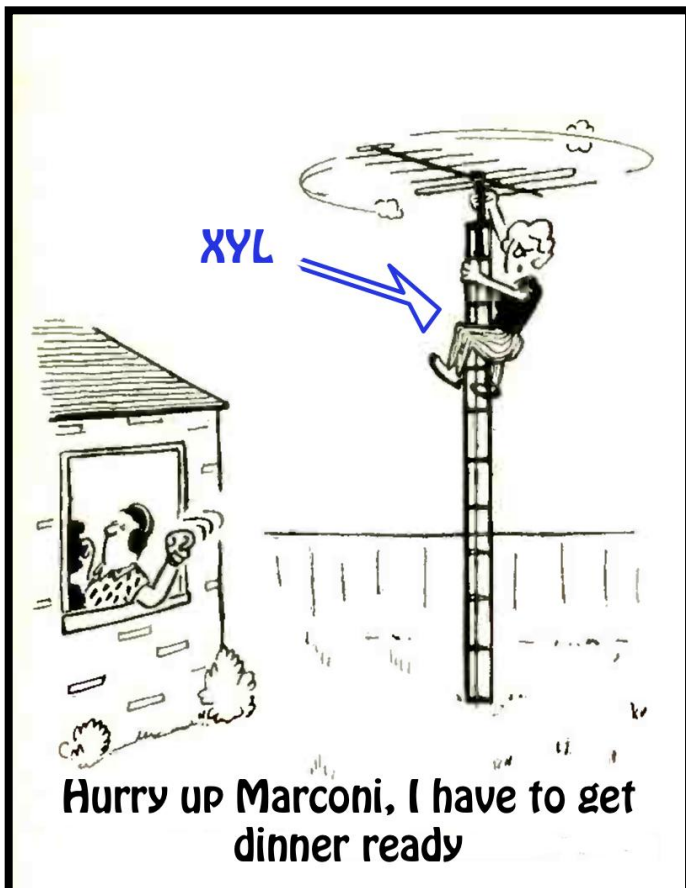
When I wrote the May article last year, it was still snowing. Yesterday I cut the grass. I hope this is a good omen for better weather this year.

At the April meeting, Cathy Fleischmann KC9NRH, our cook from last year, let me know that she has to work on Field Day and will be unable to provide lunch or dinner for us. The job is relatively simple. All you have to do is purchase food for approximately thirty people. You can bring it already prepared or grill it up on site. We have a grill and plenty of charcoal. If you can help with one meal or both please let me know as soon as possible.

I sent out a duty roster last month but only Cathy has responded. I need to know ASAP if you can or can't fulfill the post I've assigned you. Note my new email address: [kb9cyl@yahoo.com](mailto:kb9cyl@yahoo.com).

The old address is no longer valid.

That's it for this month. If you haven't circled the date yet, Field Day begins on June 27 at 0800 when we start setting up. The place is Altman Park at 116<sup>th</sup> and Oketo, a quarter mile west of Harlem in Worth.



## How the Internet Started (according to scripture)

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy. And Dot Com was a comely woman, Large of breast, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com. And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?" And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?" And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."



Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent. To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP). And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks. And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are." And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com. Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside. It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

That is how it all began. And that's the truth. And I know you believe it because everything ever written on the internet has always been the truth.

From the internet (where else?)

Courtesy of Brian W9HLQ

## Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

### Hamfesters VE Testing Report for April 2015

On April 11, 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 earned the Technician ticket. Congratulations to the candidates. VE's who assisted me were Ron N9STU, Tim AA9BV, and Ron WB9JYZ. Thank You to the 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](mailto: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](mailto:N9ZD@arrl.net).

Our next test session will be held on Saturday May 9, 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

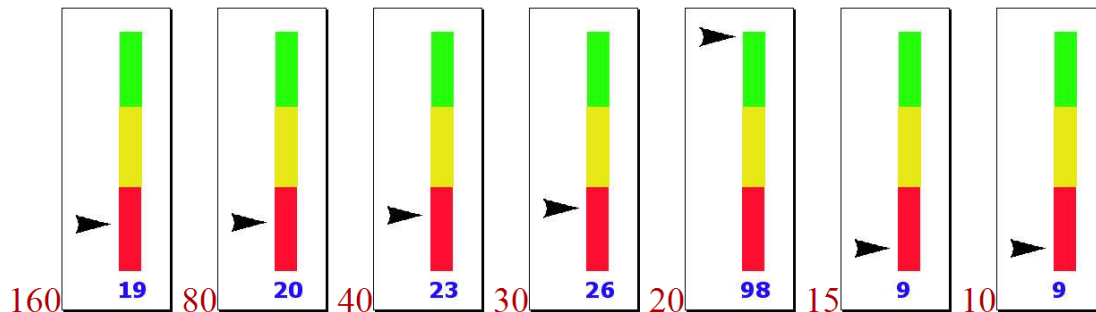


Hamgab, May 2015

## Current Band Conditions On-Line

### CONUS HF BAND CONDX

4/20/15 --- 21:09:00 GMT --- REPORT # 2518



BAND STABILITY LAST : [10 MINS](#) [HOUR](#) [24 HRS](#)

YESTERDAYS BANDCONDX : [160](#) [80](#) [40](#) [30](#) [20](#) [15](#) [10](#) UPDATED @ 00:00:00 GMT

[INSTRUCTIONS](#)

[SQUAWK BOX](#)

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[ROME](#)

[TOKYO](#)

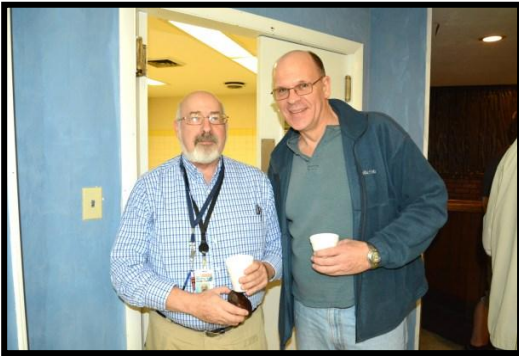
Check out this experimental website **[www.bandconditions.com](http://www.bandconditions.com)** to get up to the minute band conditions. It apparently uses "an Ionospheric sounding method called "HF Ionospheric Interferometry" which operates very similarly to the PolSAR system used by NASA". It shows real time band conditions of the 80 through 10 meter bands across the continental United States. The conditions are updated every six minutes.

## April 2015 Meeting Pictures

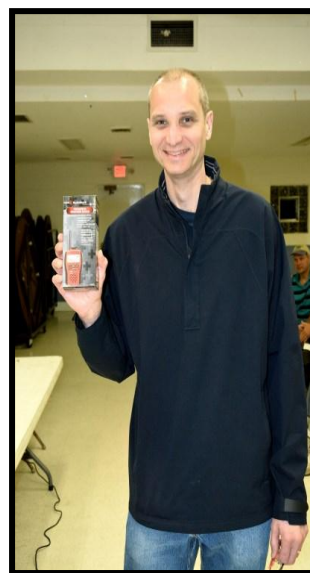
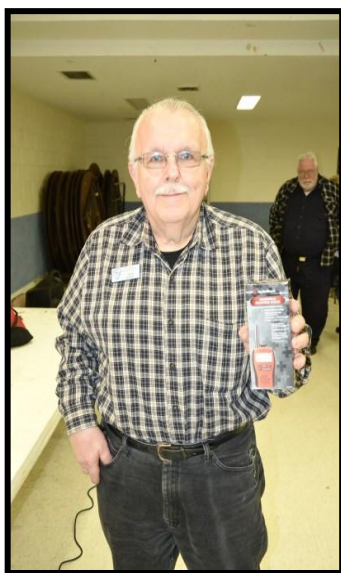




Hamgab, May 2015







Have a Happy Mother's Day and don't forget to honor our veterans this Memorial 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. Al 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. Kurt WB9FMC 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.*